



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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3 August 2020

Mr. Philippe Gautier
Registrar
International Court of Justice
Peace Palace
2517 KJ The Hague
Netherlands

Dear Sir:

I have the honour to respond to your letter of 28 July 2020, which conveyed a copy of a letter signed by the Foreign Minister of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Honourable Jorge Arreaza, which was transmitted to the Court on 27 July 2020 by the Permanent Mission of Venezuela in The Hague.

Guyana expresses its appreciation to the Court for offering it an opportunity to respond to the Foreign Minister's letter. Our response will be brief.

First, Guyana welcomes the Foreign Minister's letter, which follows Venezuela's submission of 28 November 2019, as a further participation by Venezuela in these proceedings. In bilateral diplomatic correspondence, Guyana has repeatedly urged its sister Republic to fully participate in all aspects of the case, and to contribute to the work of the Court in resolving the pending dispute peacefully and in accordance with international law. Guyana maintains the hope that, if the case proceeds to the merits phase, Venezuela will fully engage.

Second, in regard to the content of the Foreign Minister's letter, Guyana observes that, as the Foreign Minister himself has written, the letter recapitulates what Venezuela wrote in its submission of 28 November 2019. Like the earlier submission, the letter was not accompanied by any documentary or other evidence to support the contentions made therein. Guyana responded fully to each and every one of Venezuela's contentions in its oral pleadings on 30 June 2020. Accordingly, it has no need to repeat what it has already pleaded, in response to the Foreign Minister's repetition of what Venezuela submitted in November 2019.

Third, there is, however, a single point raised in the Foreign Minister's letter which was not included in Venezuela's earlier submission: the suggestion that there was a contradiction between Professor Akhavan's pleading on 30 June 2020 and that of Professor Pellet, in regard to the scope of the present dispute. There is no such contradiction. Professor Akhavan accurately stated that the dispute before the Court is over the validity of the Arbitral Award of 3 October 1899. Professor Pellet confirmed that this is, indeed, the subject matter of these proceedings. He added that if the Court were to determine – contrary to Guyana's contentions on the merits – that the Arbitral Award is invalid, such that there is no adjudicated boundary between the Parties, it should proceed to fix the boundary, in order to fulfill its mission of resolving the dispute that has been brought before it. This, too, is an accurate reflection of Guyana's position, and it is fully consistent with the statement made by Professor Akhavan.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Carl B. Greenidge
Agent of the Coöperative Republic of Guyana