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Information Division Ministry of Culture City Hall Singapore 0617 TEL 3378191 ext 352 353 354 3362207 3362271

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**STATEMENT BY SINGAPORE'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
TO THE UN IN NEW YORK, PROF T T B KOH,
BEFORE THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL,
ON THE SITUATION IN GRENADA ON 28 OCTOBER 1983**

Mr President, Singapore is one of the smallest states of the United Nations. It is a militarily weak state. Because we are small and because we are militarily weak, we therefore have a major stake in the efficacy of international law, in the principles of the United Nations Collective Security System. It is because our national security is threatened whenever a small or militarily weak state falls victim to the aggression, intervention and interference by a bigger or militarily more powerful state, that Singapore has been so outspoken in defence of the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter. We believe that all small and militarily weak states share the same interest with us in protecting these principles which afford us a degree of protection in a world which is all too prone to violence.

Mr President, it is easy enough for us to demonstrate our adherence to principle when to do so is convenient and advantageous and costs us nothing. The test of a country's adherence to principle is when it is inconvenient to do so. I find myself in such a situation today. Barbados, Jamaica, the United States and the Member States of the Organisation of East Caribbean States are friends of my country. It is extremely convenient for me to acquiesce in what they have done or to remain silent. To do so will, in the long run, undermine the moral and legal significance

of the principles which my country regard as a shield. This is why we must put our adherence to principle above friendship. This is why we cannot condone the action of our friends in Grenada. The stand my country has taken in this case is consistent with the stand we have taken in other cases.

Mr President, I regret that I will have to say that some of the countries which are clamouring the loudest for the condemnation of the foreign intervention in Grenada have not demonstrated their adherence to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of states in other cases. Let me quote just one example. In December 1979, the Soviet Union committed aggression against Afghanistan. Soviet troops are in occupation of that country and the number of Afghans who are killed daily in resisting Soviet occupation is probably larger than all the casualties suffered in Grenada. On the 29 November 1982, the 37th Session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 37/37 on Afghanistan. Which countries voted with the Soviet Union against the Resolution? They were: Angola, Bulgaria, Byelorussia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Laos, Libya, Madagascar, Mongolia, Mozambique, Poland, Syria, Ukraine and Vietnam. By their support for the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, these 18 countries have clearly shown that they owe no allegiance to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of states. The real basis for their opposition to the action of United States and others in Grenada is not based upon principle but upon the fact that those who have violated the principle are their ideological adversaries and those who are the victims of foreign intervention are their ideological comrades. The world should therefore not be deceived by the opportunism and hypocrisy of these countries.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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