

These are my wishes, because they are demanded by the good and the happiness of the nation. – Given in Valencia, 4th May, 1814 – We, the King. – The King's secretary for decrees, with special licence for this one. – Pedro de Macanaz.'

(M. Ferrer, D. Tejera y J. F. Acedo, *Historia del tradicionalismo español* (1941), vol. I, pp. 303 *et seq.*)

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*Declaration of the Assembly of Angostura convened by Bolívar on 20 November in the knowledge that Spain was seeking the help of the European Powers*

1816

'The Republic of Venezuela is by both divine and human right free from the Spanish nation and constituted as an independent, free and sovereign state. Spain has no right to claim back her dominion over her nor Europe to try to bring her under Spanish rule. She has not sought nor ever shall seek incorporation within the Spanish nation; she has not sought the mediation of the great powers to reconcile her with Spain; she will never have any dealings with Spain save on an equal footing both in peace and war as is the practice of all other nations. She only desires the intervention of foreign powers so that they might use their good offices to intercede for humanity's sake, inviting Spain to conclude a treaty of peace and friendship with the Venezuelan nation, and to recognise her and treat her as a free independent and sovereign nation. Lastly, the Republic of Venezuela declares that since the 19th April 1810 she has fought for her rights, that the greater part of the blood of her sons has been shed, that she has sacrificed all her wealth, all her pleasures and all that is dear and sacred in the world in her quest to recover her sovereign rights and to keep them as untarnished as on the day divine providence made her the gift of them, and that the people of Venezuela are resolved to perish among the ruins of their own country if Spain, Europe and the world insist on bending her back under the Spanish yoke.'

(J. Gil Fortoul, *Historia Constitucional de Venezuela* (2nd ed., 1930).