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The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Paraguay and wishes to avail itself of the opportunity to express its concern to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about a gas station that we have recently learned has received approval for construction on the corner of Avenida Brasilia and Avenida Mariscal Lopez across from the Embassy.

The Embassy wishes to remind the Ministry that under Article 22 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (VCDR) "The receiving State is under a special duty to take all appropriate steps to protect the premises of the mission against any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the mission or impairment of its dignity." The Embassy observes that the intersection with the proposed gas station has been the site of several mass gatherings and demonstrations within the past year. The presence of highly flammable accelerants in the vicinity of future potential demonstrations could lead to an incendiary situation that would limit the abilities of local law enforcement authorities to fulfill this special duty under VCDR Article 22. This would also threaten the safety and security of personnel and visitors to the Embassy compound as well as nearby