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LETTER DATED 16 FEBRUARY 1983 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF NICARAGUA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you and the members of the Security Council of the latest frontier acts of aggression committed against my country during the first part of the current year, from Honduran territory, by counter-revolutionary military units consisting of former Somoza guardsmen, financed, trained and supported by the present Government of the United States.

We consider it necessary and useful to bring the distinguished members of the Council up to date concerning such actions, which are part of the militaristic covert-war strategy directed by the United States against my country with the aim of overthrowing the revolutionary Government of Nicaragua. I also wish to recall that the latest concrete offer of unconditional dialogue, which my Government made in its note of 4 January 1983, addressed to George P. Shultz, Secretary of State of the Government of the United States of America, and issued as an official document of the Security Council, has thus far remained unanswered, and we are still awaiting a reply to it.

The events described below, which took place between 31 December 1982 and 7 February 1983, the date of the conclusion of the United States manoeuvres on our northern frontier, demonstrate what kind of reply we may expect from the present United States administration.

During the night of 31 December 1982 our army repelled three attempts made by mercenaries and former Somoza guardsmen to enter our national territory, at the villages of San José de las Manos, La Sabana and Los Cipreses.

On 1 January 1983, 67 peasants, most of them children, were kidnapped by a counter-revolutionary unit at the village of San Rafael, north of Jalapa. The kidnapped persons were taken to the territory of Honduras. On that same day, 60 counter-revolutionary elements attacked the village of Miilkilse, north-east of the town of Ocotal.

On 4 January a counter-revolutionary camp with a capacity for 180 elements was dismantled; a large number of weapons of United States manufacture were found there.

On 5 January a counter-revolutionary detachment was surprised while making an incursion into Nicaraguan territory in the area known as "Los Robles", 400 metres from the frontier line.

On 9 January a band consisting of 40 counter-revolutionaries murdered two Nicaraguan civilians who were picking coffee at a place known as "Cerero Helado" near the village of Yalí. On the same date, several of the peasants who had been kidnapped on 1 January managed to escape. Their statements amply demonstrated the close relations between the Honduran army troops and intelligence services and the counter-revolutionaries.

On 12 January two technicians were murdered and five others seriously wounded; they had been working for Nicaragua's Ministry of Agrarian Reform at Mata de Plátano, between Victoria and Murra, Department of Nueva Segovia.

On 13 January three counter-revolutionary elements and one deserter from the Honduran army were presented to the national and international press by the authorities of my country's army. The statements made by those individuals amply demonstrated the complicity of the highest Honduran authorities in the counter-revolutionary activity carried on from Honduran territory against Nicaragua.

On 16 January, in an ambush set by former Somoza guardsmen against more than 200 Nicaraguan coffee-cutters, at Namasli, only 400 metres from the frontier, a boy aged 14 and a girl aged 13 were murdered and 15 other persons were seriously wounded.

Between 11 and 19 January there were a number of confrontations in the northern part of the Departments of Jinotega and Zelaya between our army and counter-revolutionary units; 24 former Somoza guardsmen and 18 members of the Sandinist People's Army were killed.

On 26 January, in counter-revolutionary actions north-east of Yalí, Department of Jinotega, 29 former Somoza guardsmen and 4 members of our army were killed.

On 31 January, 8 Nicaraguan peasants were murdered by a counter-revolutionary gang in the District of Malacagués, Department of Matagalpa. On the same day there were clashes between units of the Sandinist People's Army and over 200 counter-revolutionaries at Caño La Leona, 23 kilometres north of Wiwilí, resulting in the death of 15 former Somoza guardsmen and 5 soldiers of the Sandinist People's Army.

As the culmination of this long series of acts of aggression and provocation, on 1 February the "Big Pine" joint United States-Honduran manoeuvres were begun. They included the mobilization of 7,000 troops of the two armies by land, sea and air and were carried out in Honduran territory only 14 kilometres from the frontier line, in the area which traditionally has served as a base of operations for the mercenaries and former Somoza guardsmen who are engaged in destruction and the murder of innocent people in our territory.

During those days, under cover of the said manoeuvres, there were clashes in the Bismuna region, 100 kilometres north of Puerto Cabezas and only 10 kilometres from the frontier with Honduras. The Somozists entered Nicaraguan territory from Honduras, crossing the Iwan Tara River, and as a result of the armed encounters, 73 counter-revolutionaries and 5 members of the Nicaraguan frontier guard forces died.

Summing up, we may state that during the period mentioned, we have suffered 16 military attacks, as a result of which 46 Nicaraguans have died, 20 have been wounded and 67 have been kidnapped.

I therefore request you, Sir, to have this note circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Victor Hugo TINOCO  
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Representative of Nicaragua  
to the Security Council

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