



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/15716
20 April 1983
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

LETTER DATED 20 APRIL 1983 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF HONDURAS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from Dr. Edgardo Paz Barnica, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras, I have the honour to send you a copy of the note of protest sent to His Excellency Mr. Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, the text of which reads as follows:

"Note No. 243 DSM. Tegucigalpa, DC, 19 April 1983. Sir: I have the honour to inform you that at 11 a.m. today, while navigating in Honduran territorial waters, a Honduran fishing vessel was pursued and persistently harassed by a patrol boat of the Sandinist People's Army. In response to this situation, two Honduran Government patrol boats went to the aid of the fishing vessel in question. Four more Nicaraguan Army patrol boats then arrived and an armed skirmish broke out in Honduran territorial waters at 82.40' longitude, 15'10'00' latitude in the Atlantic Ocean. The two Honduran patrol boats later returned to their bases. In view of incidents of this kind, which can appear as an act of hostility and aggression against the territorial integrity of Honduras, my Government, through this note, makes a vigorous protest to the Government of Nicaragua and is forced to reiterate once again that, if such acts persist, they will continue to be repelled by the Honduran Army in exercise of its constitutional powers to defend the national sovereignty and to exercise the right of self-defence affirmed in multilateral legal instruments. I wish to remind you once again of the persistent refusal of the Government of Nicaragua to attend a meeting of Naval Commanders planned for some months now and aimed at finding ways to avoid incidents such as those which gave rise to this note of protest. Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration. (Signed) Edgardo Paz Barnica, Minister for Foreign Affairs."

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this note to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Francisco Dario LOBO
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.