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LETTER DATED 21 APRIL 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
NICARAGUA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the note of protest dated 17 April 1983 addressed to His Excellency Dr. Edgardo Paz Barnica, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras, by His Excellency Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua.

"Sir,

I am writing to inform you that on 17 April 1983, two Honduran coast guard vessels entered Nicaraguan territorial waters in the Gulf of Fonseca, in blatant violation of our sovereignty, and attacked Nicaraguan patrol boat P-220 which was routinely patrolling the national territory. The captain of the Nicaraguan coast guard vessel, Marcos Torres, and crew members Jorge Castellón Peña, Julio Castellón and Secundino Vásquez were wounded in the attack.

The attack took place at 4 a.m., approximately 2 miles from Punta el Papayal, in other words in an area far removed from the coastline and jurisdictional waters of Honduras. That in itself suffices to show the premeditated and treacherous nature of the attack, which forms part of the policy of provocation which the Honduran Army has adopted against our country with the aim of justifying open conflict with Nicaragua.

In making a vigorous and formal protest to the Government of Honduras at this further attack on our national territory, we stress the urgent need to abandon this irresponsible and aggressive policy which today is one of the main obstacles to détente and peace."

I should be grateful if you would have this note distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Javier CHAMORRO MORA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Nicaragua
to the United Nations