



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/15879
21 July 1983
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

LETTER DATED 21 JULY 1983 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES a.i. OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF NICARAGUA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I transmit to you herewith the text of the note sent to Edgardo Paz Barnica, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras, by Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua, on 20 July 1983.

"Sir,

I am writing to you in order to inform you of the following:

First, today, 20 July 1983, at 6.55 a.m., two coastguard vessels of the Honduran naval forces treacherously attacked the Nicaraguan patrol boat 4 de Mayo at Punta San José, 13 kilometres north-west of Potosí, in Nicaragua's territorial waters in the Gulf of Fonseca. The patrol boat, which was engaged in its normal surveillance duties, exercised the right of self-defence and responded to the attack; the confrontation lasted 90 minutes.

Secondly, yesterday, 19 July, there occurred a series of violations of Nicaraguan airspace by aircraft coming from Honduran territory, which are described below:

(a) At 8.15 a.m. an undetermined aircraft overflew Izapa Junction, situated 10 kilometres south-west of La Paz Centro, in the department of León, returning thereafter to the territory of Honduras.

(b) At 8.55 a.m. a jet aircraft overflew the sectors of Puerto Morazán in the department of Chinandega and thereafter returned to Honduras.

(c) At 9.05 a.m. a Super Mystère aircraft of the Honduran air force overflew the sectors adjacent to Punta Mangle Alto, 25 kilometres north-west of Puerto Morazán, and returned to its base in Honduras.

(d) At 9.40 a.m. an aircraft of undetermined type overflew the village of San José de Achuapa, 35 kilometres east of Puerto Morazán, and then flew to the village of El Sauce in the department of León.

(e) At 6 p.m. a lead-coloured A-37 aircraft overflowed the sectors of Punta Nata and Punta Cosigüina in the department of Chinandega.

(f) At 7 p.m. a camouflage-painted aircraft entered Nicaragua by way of Puerto Morazán, subsequently overflying the village of El Viejo and the town of Chinandega, and then returned to Honduras.

(g) At 7.20 p.m. four aircraft of undetermined type, apparently coming from Honduran territory, overflowed the port of Corinto; two of the aforementioned aircraft subsequently flew over the town of León, while the other two flew off in a northerly direction towards Honduras.

(h) At 8.45 p.m. another undetermined aircraft carried out overflights in the sector of the port of Corinto.

It must be pointed out, Sir, that these flights coincide with the presence in Nicaragua's territorial waters, in violation of our sovereignty, of the frigates FF026 Galery and Lewis Fuller of the United States Navy, the first of which was yesterday 20 kilometres from Punta Nata, department of Chinandega, while the second was navigating between Montelimar and Punta Cosigüina; this created a delicate situation of provocations against our country which can only increase the tensions in the Central American region.

In view of the gravity of the present situation, the Government of Nicaragua insists once more on the need to strengthen the peace efforts of the Contadora Group and the urgency of initiating, as soon as possible, unconditional direct conversations between Honduras and Nicaragua which will make possible the restoration of peace and tranquillity between our countries and in the Central American region.

Nicaragua's deep and sincere concern over the growing deterioration of the situation in the area has prompted my Government to submit a new peace proposal, summarized in six points, which was stated yesterday by Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra. That proposal is completely consistent with the present reality of Central America and will, we hope, be favourably received by your Government, helping thereby to smooth the way towards peace.

The Government of Nicaragua further protests vigorously against the repeated violations of its sovereign airspace and the unjustified attack upon the Nicaraguan patrol boat.

I take this opportunity to renew to you, Sir, the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

(Signed) Miguel D'ESCOTO BROCKMANN
Minister for Foreign Affairs"

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I should be most grateful to you, Sir, if you would have this note circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Julio ICAZA GALLARD
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative
of Nicaragua to the United Nations
