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ORIGINAL: SPANISHLETTER DATED 4 MAY 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

I have the honour, on the instructions of Mr. Arnulfo Pineda López, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras, to transmit to you herewith the text of the note sent to His Excellency Mr. Miguel D'Escoto B., Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua:

"Document No. 187-DA. Tegucigalpa, D.C., 3 May 1983. His Excellency Mr. Miguel D'Escoto, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, Managua. Sir, I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your message of yesterday's date, in which you transcribe the protest note sent by you on that date to the Secretary of State of the United States of America concerning the Government of Nicaragua's armed conflict with so-called counter-revolutionary Nicaraguan forces. I am referring to that protest only because in it serious and reckless accusations are made against the Honduran army which, but for their obvious hostile intent, could be described only as absurd. It is not the case that 'Some of the Honduran forces [were] attacking Nicaraguan positions from their own territory' nor that 'others [were] inside Nicaraguan territory taking direct part in the battles alongside the invading forces.' As my Government has repeatedly stated, in both international forums and bilateral discussions, the armed forces of Honduras, by constitutional mandate, were established to defend the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic. They are at present engaged with redoubled zeal in complying strictly with that patriotic mission, in view of the situation of violence that prevails in neighbouring countries and the patent intention of some of the contending forces to involve them in their internal struggles. In this respect, it is hard not to see a connection between your report of an imaginary invasion of your country by the national army and the savage attack made on the same date by Salvadorian guerrillas on the 'El Amatillo' frontier post, in which they set fire to El Salvador's customs facilities and tried to destroy the international bridge over the Goascorán river, forcing our army to protect the Honduran part of that structure. That act of self-defence sufficed to cause the subversive forces operating in El Salvador to assert, in their turn, that Honduran troops had invaded the neighbouring country.

S/15745  
English  
Page 2

"The Government of Honduras reaffirms its continuing willingness to seek peaceful solutions to the present complex problems of the Central American area, its rejection of the threat or use of force in the conduct of its international relations and its firm resolve to defend its national sovereignty and the right of the Honduran people to live under the democratic régime they have freely adopted. I take this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration. Arnulfo Pineda López, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs."

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

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

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