



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/32/350
21 November 1977
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Thirty-second session
Agenda item 24

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Note verbale dated 18 November 1977 from the Permanent Mission of
Guatemala to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit to him a copy of a telegram received today containing a complaint addressed to the Chairman of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly by the Secretary of the Partido Progresista de Toledo, Belize, concerning the arrest by the Belizean authorities of Mr. Anthony Martínez, one of the petitioners who addressed the Fourth Committee on the question of Belize.

Mr. Vernon states that the arrest of Mr. Martínez was a reprisal ordered by the Honourable George Price because Mr. Martínez informed the Fourth Committee of facts which Mr. Price did not wish to be known in this international forum, and he requests that the British Governor of Belize should be asked to prevail upon Mr. Price to put an end to the abuse which is being committed and to ensure respect for the liberty and life of the fellow party members of the petitioners.

In view of the seriousness of this complaint, the Mission of Guatemala appeals to the Secretary-General to intercede personally with the British Governor of Belize and request that an end be put to the acts that are being committed against Mr. Martínez.

The Mission of Guatemala also requests the Secretary-General to arrange for this note and telegram to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly on agenda item 24.

ANNEX

Telegram dated 17 November 1977 from the Secretary of the Partido Progresista de Toledo, Belize, addressed to the Chairman of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly

The Secretary-General of the Partido Progresista de Toledo, Alejandro Vernon, reports to the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly the seizure of the President of the Partido Progresista de Toledo, Antonio Martínez, on 15 November 1977, on his arrival at Punta Gorda, Belize. The seizure was effected by the Belizean authorities, who committed an unlawful and reprehensible act constituting an infringement of the human rights of the Belizean people, in the arrest of Antonio Martínez as a reprisal on the part of the Honourable Mr. Price, when his only crime was to have spoken in the Fourth Committee on the question of Belize and revealed truths which Mr. Price did not wish to be known in this world forum. I, Alejandro Vernon, am a Belizean. I am not afraid of the wrath of Mr. Price. I am determined to sacrifice my life and liberty for all Belizeans who have not been asked whether or not they are in favour of independence for Belize.

I also appeal to the Chairman of the Fourth Committee to call on the British Governor of Belize to prevail upon Mr. Price to stop the abuse which is being perpetrated and to respect the life and liberty of party members Antonio Martínez, Cirilo Caliz and myself.

I firmly believe that right is on our side and I likewise believe in the legality of the discussion of the issue in this world forum. Awaiting your assistance at this difficult time for us and for our families.

Alejandro VERNON
Secretary of the Partido Progresista de Toledo
