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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: THREATS
TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND
PEACE INITIATIVES

Letter dated 21 October 1986 from the Permanent Representative of
Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the note dated 19 October 1986 from His Excellency Víctor Hugo Tinoco, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua, addressed to His Excellency Mr. George Shultz, Secretary of State of the United States of America.

"I wish to refer to the very serious events described below:

"On 18 October 1986, the President of the United States, Mr. Ronald Reagan, signed into law the bill authorizing the sending of United States military advisers for the mercenary forces and the delivery to the latter of all types of weapons and aerial, ground and naval means of transport. The act also authorizes an outlay of \$100 million for the terrorist groups that your Government has set up, trained, armed, directed and financed for the purpose of attacking the people of Nicaragua in violation of all law.

"This move opens a new and dangerous chapter in the Central American crisis, a chapter of death and destruction. Owing to this new situation, the danger of a regional war has increased, and the conditions have been created for intervention by United States troops on Nicaraguan soil. The signing of this bill and, in particular, the fact that it authorizes the involvement of United States military advisers and the delivery of all types of weapons to the mercenaries, accelerates the 'Vietnamization' of the conflict and places international peace and security in imminent danger.

"The step taken by President Reagan shows open contempt for the Judgment of the International Court of Justice dated 27 June 1986. In its ruling, apart from categorically condemning the policy of force, threats and intervention practised by the United States Administration in flagrant breach of international law, the Court decided that your Government is under a duty immediately to cease and refrain from all acts as may constitute breaches of the foregoing legal obligations.

"The continuation of military and paramilitary activities in and against Nicaragua places the United States Government outside international law and the community of nations and is a blow to the international legal order and the yearning for peace on the part of all humanity.

"The disregard shown by a world Power for the International Court and for the guiding principles of coexistence among States as enshrined in the United Nations Charter is a serious and unpredictable act which disqualifies your Government from its claim to any moral authority and puts the international community face to face with a Government which not only possesses the best means for the destruction of humanity but has placed force and terrorism above law and reason.

"The bloodstained bill signed by President Reagan is an authorization for death and terrorism. Under cover of its provisions, the massacre of entire populations and the murder of thousands of Nicaraguans, including defenceless children, will continue.

"This act will also lead to a greater involvement of United States citizens in the aggression against Nicaragua. Hence, President Reagan has also authorized the spilling of American blood, as recently occurred in the cases of William J. Cooper and Wallace Blaine Sawyer, victims of the cruel and irresponsible policy of your Government.

"Mr. Secretary of State, the importance and impact of this immoral and illegal action goes beyond the crisis in the region and affects all the peoples of Latin America. The dangers to which the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group and the Support Group drew attention in their recent declaration are already a tragic reality of the conflict in which the region is involved. In that declaration, the Ministers said, furthermore, that the peace of Central America was also their own peace. The signing of this bill therefore constitutes an insult to all Latin America and to the efforts made on its behalf by the Contadora and Lima Groups.

"The Government of Nicaragua vigorously and formally protests at the enactment of this legislation, which is the culmination of an official policy of terror and crime sponsored by a Power that refuses to accept that a country like Nicaragua has the right to self-determination and the right to be the master of its own destiny and control the course of its history in such a manner as its own people may sovereignly decide. Once again Nicaragua reaffirms its unswerving resolve to defend its homeland with the same courage and abnegation with which we shall continue to defend the cause of peace, justice and full respect for the international legal order."

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nora ASTORGA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
