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

Letter dated 16 December 1986 from the Permanent Representative
of Honduras addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request you to circulate as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council, the following official statement of the Republic of Honduras:

"The Government of Honduras has learned with justified concern that the Government of Nicaragua is to conduct as from today, 16 December, military manoeuvres known as SUTIAVA 86. These manoeuvres will take place in León and Chinandega departments. They will involve 6,500 troops of the Sandinist People's Army and other Nicaraguan armed forces who have in the past few hours been moving up to occupy strategic positions along the common frontier, especially in the zones of Las Manos, Guasaule, La Fraternidad and other important sectors. In view of the fact that the conduct of these manoeuvres by the Sandinist forces will extend to within a bare kilometre and a half of the frontier, the Government of the Republic of Honduras considers that they reflect a spirit of provocation and constitute a threat to the small Honduran detachments guarding the frontier zone.

"The result of this new aggressive strategy on the part of the Sandinist forces is simply to renew the determination of the people and Government of Honduras to maintain its national sovereignty intact through their armed forces and to defend its territorial integrity.

"It is regrettable but significant that this deliberate provocation is taking place just a few days after the treacherous incursion of the Sandinist People's Army into Honduran territory. Clearly, the conduct of manoeuvres of

this kind, at this specific juncture, can only increase the already dangerous tensions that exist between the two States.

"The Government of Honduras trusts that the international community will take note of the aggressive attitude of the Nicaraguan Government, as well as of the concern to which it gives rise.

"Tegucigalpa, DC, 16 December 1986."

(Signed) Roberto MARTINEZ ORDOÑEZ
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
