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Letter dated 22 December 1986 from the Permanent Representative of
Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you with reference to the following:

In a letter dated 16 December 1986 addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations, an attempt is made to ascribe to the Government of Nicaragua a non-existent responsibility for the death of the Honduran soldier Oswaldo Lobo Andrade. This accusation is directed against the Sandinist People's Army on the basis of alleged statements made by the Honduran soldier Alfonso Urraco Díaz.

With regard to such charges, the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations submits the following considerations:

On 5 December 1986, the Government of Honduras accused the Government of Nicaragua of the alleged capture of the Honduran soldiers Urraco Díaz and López Andrade.

In a note dated the same day, the Government of Nicaragua pointed out that the accusations contained in the Honduran note were totally untrue.

At a press conference held on 10 December 1986, President Azcona acknowledged that one of the disappeared soldiers whose capture was arbitrarily ascribed to Nicaragua had reappeared.

Subsequently, the Government of Honduras requested the return of the Honduran soldier, Oswaldo López Andrade.

In note DAJ-099 of 12 December 1986, the Government of Nicaragua reiterated clearly and categorically that the Sandinist People's Army had not captured the Honduran soldier López Andrade, who is now identified as Hermes Oswaldo Lobo Andrade.

In the statement made by President Azcona, it was at no point mentioned that the Honduran soldier who had reappeared had escaped from the hands of the Sandinist People's Army.

It is therefore surprising that an attempt is now being made to blame the Government of Nicaragua for the death of the soldier Lobo Andrade on the basis of statements made by the soldier Urraco, whose case was expressly described by President Azcona himself as one of temporary disappearance.

Consequently, such accusations against Nicaragua are rather aimed at arbitrarily blaming Nicaragua for events in which it had absolutely no part, in order to create pretexts for new and more extensive acts of aggression against my country.

As has been stated on innumerable occasions by the Government of Nicaragua, this type of unfounded accusations reflect interests involved in promoting a climate of confrontation between the two countries. We have likewise pointed out that the cause of the tensions along the border is the continued presence and activities of the mercenary forces in the service of the United States, which use Honduran territory as a base for acts of aggression against Nicaragua.

The Government of Nicaragua categorically rejects the note from the Permanent Representative of Honduras and urges his Government to accept Nicaragua's proposal to request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to dispatch a commission of investigation to the area of tension, which, with the participation of the Contadora Group, would identify the causes of the tension which exists and recommend appropriate measures for preventing a further worsening of the situation.

I request you to have this note circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the agenda item entitled "The situation in Central America: threats to international peace and security and peace initiatives", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nora ASTORGA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
