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TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND  
PEACE INITIATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Forty-third year

Letter dated 23 March 1988 from the Permanent Representative  
of Honduras to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the message sent to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries members of the Contadora Group and the Support Group by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this note and its annex distributed as a document of the forty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jorge Ramón HERNANDEZ ALCERRO  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Message dated 21 March 1988 sent to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries members of the Contadora Group and the Support Group by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras

It was with surprise that I learned of the draft declaration which the Contadora Group and the Support Group will be submitting to the meeting of the United Nations Security Council scheduled for tomorrow. The aforesaid draft does not acknowledge the situation which has arisen in the border area between Honduras and Nicaragua, for it neither refers to nor condemns the act of aggression perpetrated against Honduras by the Sandinist People's Army.

It is ironic that increasing concern should be expressed about the presence of United States troops in Honduras, when such troops were sent in response to my Government's request, on a purely temporary basis and as a deterrent, while the aforesaid declaration remains completely silent about the violation of the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of Honduras by the Sandinist People's Army. It is also ironic that there should be such an interest in denouncing the presence of foreign troops in Honduras, while nothing is said about the 6,000 military advisers from the Soviet bloc which the Government of Nicaragua has on its territory.

The aforesaid draft declaration departs from the balance and impartiality which must characterize the actions of countries members of the Contadora Group and the Support Group, for it promotes the unilateral interests of Nicaragua when that country is seeking to internationalize a conflict caused by the profound divisions within its own society and the absence of a firm political determination to bring about domestic reconciliation as provided for in the Guatemala Procedure.

Honduras regrets the Nicaraguan Government's persistence in undermining the process for settling its internal conflict peacefully, and also expresses its profound concern at the fact that the Sandinist Government has rejected the mediation of the Catholic Church, in the person of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, and has failed to pursue the dialogue aimed at reaching a cease-fire agreement that would promote national reconciliation and democratization.

Such reconciliation would have made it unnecessary to take up arms as an alternative to solving Nicaragua's internal political problems.

Honduras believes that this resurgence of the use of international violence by the Nicaraguan Government occurred when the last pretext for not complying with the Guatemala Procedure disappeared, leaving the establishment of social peace and the maintenance of regional peace in that Government's hands.

I trust that you will take due account of the views expressed above.

(Signed) Carlos LOPEZ CONTRERAS  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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