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LETTER DATED 1 FEBRUARY 1981 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ECUADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to address myself to you on the express instructions of my Government, and in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Charter, for the purpose of bringing to the attention of the Security Council, by virtue of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, the serious situation prevailing between the Republics of Ecuador and Peru because of the aggression suffered by Ecuador at the hands of the Peruvian armed forces since 22 January of this year in the south-east region of our country, in the Cordillera del Cóndor, in Ecuadorian military outposts, particularly that of Paquisha.

In that connexion, Ecuador has supported the first resolution adopted by the Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the dispatch of an observer mission to the area where the Peruvian attacks were being mounted; such a move has not, however, been accepted by Peru.

Ecuador has also accepted, and Peru has refused, the generous offer of mediation made by the Governments of Colombia and Venezuela, Andean countries which share historical traditions and geographical features with those of Ecuador and Peru.

Ecuador has also supported the OAS resolution on the convening of a meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs to consider the dispute between Ecuador and Peru, which was adopted with 20 votes in favour, the vote of Peru against and 2 abstentions. In that connexion, the Ecuadorian Minister for Foreign Affairs indicated that he had decided to attend that meeting in order to seek peace with dignity, on the basis of specific formulas that would ensure that the peace was a lasting and not an unstable one.

In addition, the Ecuadorian Minister for Foreign Affairs, following the initiative taken by Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States to express concern at the incidents that have occurred in the Ecuadorian-Peruvian frontier zone and to appeal to the two countries to refrain from any resort to force and to do their utmost to eliminate the tension through peaceful means, indicated that Ecuador had confined itself to repelling armed attacks and that the Government welcomed the initiative of the four countries, which would play a constructive role

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in any discussions held and any formulas put forward on this important question within the framework of OAS, as well as each and every conciliatory action proposed by friendly countries.

The Ecuadorian Government believes that, by virtue of the Security Council's own responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security, and without any desire to influence the actions undertaken by the regional organization, the Council should be kept fully informed of developments in this matter. On that understanding, I have been instructed to present this letter, and I request that it be distributed urgently as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Miguel ALBORNOZ
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Ecuador
to the United Nations