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LETTER DATED 17 SEPTEMBER 1981 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
GUATEMALA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to reproduce below the note of protest against the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, delivered yesterday to the Embassy of Switzerland, which is handling that country's affairs in Guatemala. The note reads as follows:

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the Honourable Embassy of Switzerland, as the Embassy handling the affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and wishes to inform it that on Thursday, 10 September 1981, at 2 p.m., a British reconnaissance aircraft entered Guatemalan air space without proper authorization, flying over several departmental capitals as well as over the national capital, at an altitude of 35,000 feet.

This unusual act constitutes a flagrant violation of the most elementary rules of international law and an abuse of territorial inviolability. Moreover, it demonstrates the aggressive attitude of the British Government in provoking a peaceful nation so insolently.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs requests the Honourable Embassy of Switzerland to convey to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland the most energetic protest of the Government of Guatemala against this act.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes this opportunity to renew to the Honourable Embassy of Switzerland the assurances of its highest consideration.

Guatemala, 16 September 1981

Please arrange for this communication to be circulated as a Security Council document, with reference to Guatemala's request drawing the Security Council's attention to the dispute with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the Territory of Belize.

(Signed) Eduardo CASTILLO ARRIOLA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative