

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/14699
18 September 1981
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

LETTER DATED 18 SEPTEMBER 1981 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF GUATEMALA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On 16 September 1981, I had the honour to appear at the request of Your Excellency and of the Secretary-General, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, to receive information on the result of the consultations held the previous day among the members of the Security Council concerning the request which I submitted on 10 September, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Guatemala, with the purpose of drawing to the Council's attention, formally on the basis of the categorical provisions of the United Nations Charter contained in Articles 35, paragraphs 1, 34 and 38, the territorial dispute over Belize submitted for direct negotiation between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Guatemala. On that occasion, I promised Your Excellency to convey the reaction of my Government to the singular informal decision of the Council, in clear disregard of the unavoidable obligations imposed on it by the Charter in Chapter VI.

My Government believes that it is the categorical duty of the Security Council in the case brought by Guatemala to meet in public session to consider a dispute which, if it continues, may endanger international peace and security in our area, aggravating an already explosive situation existing in Central America, instead of meeting informally for consultations which have clearly only served some States' political interests and which are harmful to the rights of a sovereign State that has no intercourse with those centres of political interest, well known for their sectarian conduct, which are doing so much harm to the United Nations.

The above-mentioned decisions, marred by obvious partiality, have prevented you, as President of the Council, from fulfilling your obligation under rule 3 of the rules of procedure of the Security Council to call a meeting to consider this case. The rule states, without any restriction: "The President shall call a meeting of the Security Council if a dispute or situation is brought to the attention of the Security Council under Article 35 ...".

It is even more regrettable that the Security Council, in order to evade its ineluctable responsibilities to ensure and promote the peaceful settlement of disputes and to further the maintenance of international peace and security, instead of considering a clear, transparent and rational question submitted by my country and promoting the solution of a territorial dispute which, if it continues, may endanger international peace and security, should have become involved in legal judgements concerning another different question, not raised by my Government - the

question of the independence of Belize and its admission to membership in the United Nations.

In view of the absence of prompt and effective action by the Security Council, which the Charter specifies as its primary responsibility in the pacific settlement of disputes and the maintenance of international peace, the Government of the Republic of Guatemala STATES:

(1) That it declines all responsibility for the negative and partial action of that organ in response to the formal request which it submitted on 10 September 1981;

(2) That the Security Council, by rejecting and not giving legal effect to the complaint submitted by the Republic of Guatemala, is trying unsuccessfully to confirm the unfair, illegitimate and unilateral behaviour by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, thus pandering to the irresistible designs of a great Power which is attempting, under the guise of the self-determination of peoples and taking advantage of the decolonization processes, to evade its serious historical responsibilities.

(3) Consequently, the Government of Guatemala has no alternative but to declare categorically that it does not recognize the unilateral independence of Belize or its existence as a sovereign State, because it is located in a territory which belongs to Guatemala and is an integral part of its national territory.

(4) Because of the irregular behaviour of the Security Council, the Republic of Guatemala has no alternative but to express at this stage its opposition to the admission of Belize to the United Nations, since this is a matter which affects its interests.

(5) In view of the foregoing, the Republic of Guatemala expresses its wish to be heard and invited to participate in any discussion in the Security Council concerning the admission of Belize to membership in the United Nations. It does so in accordance with rules 37 and 38 of the rules of procedure of the Security Council.

Please be kind enough to inform the members of the Security Council of this communication and to arrange for it to be circulated as a document of that august body.

(Signed) Eduardo CASTILLO-ARRIOLA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative