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LETTER DATED 22 SEPTEMBER 1981 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO
THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour, with reference to the letter dated 17 September 1981 from the Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations (S/14694), to inform you that the Embassy of Switzerland, in its capacity as the protecting power, has replied on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Guatemalan Foreign Ministry's Note of 16 September 1981, the text of which was set out in the Permanent Representative's letter under reference. The reply included the following paragraph:

Her Britannic Majesty's Government assure the Guatemalan authorities that the incursion into Guatemalan airspace by a British aircraft referred to in their Note did not take place. Her Majesty's Government must therefore reject as without foundation the Guatemalan protest. British forces in Belize are under the strictest instructions to avoid any risk of such incursions and Her Majesty's Government reaffirm their desire to maintain harmony and reduce tensions in the area.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. D. PARSONS