



Security Council

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Letter dated 25 September 1981 from the Foreign Minister of Nicaragua
addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to bring to your attention, and to that of the honourable Council over which you preside, a situation which concerns one of the fundamental objectives of this lofty body, namely, the preservation of peace, security and the territorial integrity of States.

At this very moment, when we can affirm, without exaggeration, that the eyes of the world are fixed on the upheaval in Central America and when many countries, including Nicaragua, have given, with absolute respect for the principle of the self-determination of peoples, clear indications of their will to make every possible effort to achieve stability in the region on the basis of a just, political solution which ensures true and lasting peace, at this very moment the Government of the United States is initiating the "Ocean Venture 81" manoeuvre in the Caribbean Basin.

Furthermore, the Government of the United States has announced that, in the next few days, military exercises will be held under the name of "Halcon Vista" in areas very close to Nicaraguan territory; these include air, naval and land manoeuvres conducted jointly with Honduras from 7 to 9 October.

In addition to being very disruptive to the search for peaceful solutions, to which several countries having a high sense of moral responsibility are committed, such manoeuvres are a cause of very serious concern for the people and Government of Nicaragua.

Our country has been the victim of threats, and of military intervention and aggression by Governments of the United States ever since the beginning of our existence as an independent nation; the initial result was the National War, in which all Central American countries united to expel the United States invaders from Nicaragua in 1856. Later, there was the political intervention with

United States naval support in 1909, which resulted in the puppet Governments which were imposed and supported only by the bayonettes of the United States marines. That situation provoked the nationalist revolt of Benjamín Zeledón, who was assassinated by occupation troops in 1912.

The prolonged political and military occupation of Nicaragua produced a series of national liberation efforts. These culminated in the nationalist war, headed by General Augusto C. Sandino, which lasted from 1927 to 1933 and which touched the world's conscience. During those years, the recently invented nose-dive aircraft from the United States attacked our cities, and thousands of United States marines pursued and murdered our patriots. The marines worked together with the genocidal and ill-named national guard, which has been set up in Nicaragua by the same occupation force to replace this is a known fact the United States soldiers who were obliged to leave the country in 1933. That puppet army enabled the United States to continue to subjugate our people who were committed to peace, independence and freedom, and to perpetuate its political and military domination of our country until 19 July 1979.

On that glorious day, our entire people, led by the Sandista Front of National Liberation, succeeded in ending the nightmare of 70 years of American domination with all the forms of intervention and repression described above.

Now, the new Nicaragua, freed at last through the sacrifice of thousands of its best sons and the firm determination of its people to live free or die in their sacred commitment to defend and consolidate their freedom, is still threatened by former members of Somoza's guard and by foreign sympathizers of the toppled genocidal régime, who are preparing to invade Nicaragua, as has been publicly announced from training camps in Honduras, Guatemala and the United States itself, facts which have been widely broadcast by the world media, including the United States media.

It is easily understandable therefore that, in this context, the air, naval and land manoeuvres mentioned earlier, in addition to being a disruptive factor that is undermining all the efforts directed towards ensuring peace in the Central American isthmus, represent a special threat to the Nicaraguan people who have historically suffered such aggression from the United States of America. It is also understandable that such events oblige our entire people and my Government to adopt a state of general alert and to step up our efforts to defend and strengthen the recently acquired freedom of our nation. These are measures which events obliged us to take, despite the fact that they obviously divert us from the great task of national reconstruction necessitated by a half a century of misgovernment, by the systematic destruction of our productive infrastructure and by economic pillage, which has also left us heirs to an external debt the servicing of which requires the disbursement of nearly half of the foreign currency we obtain from our exports.

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The people and Government of Nicaragua wish to inform you and the States Members of the United Nations that Nicaragua most categorically denounces and condemns the situation thus described, inasmuch as it represents a threat to international peace and security. In addition, we request that this note should be circulated as a document of the Security Council to the permanent missions accredited to the United Nations.

(Signed) Miguel D'ESCOTO BROCKMANN
Minister for Foreign Affairs
