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LETTER DATED 28 JULY 1982 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF NICARAGUA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey to you and to the Security Council the deep concern of the people and Government of Nicaragua regarding a series of distressing and dangerous incidents, provoked directly and indirectly by the Governments of the United States, which threaten the sovereignty of Nicaragua and may lead to a widespread conflagration in Central America.

On 27 July the Sandinista Air Force intercepted two "Navajo" aircraft equipped with rocket launchers and bombs which were heading for the only oil refinery in the country. One of the aircraft, which was pursued, entered Honduran air space, while the other headed for the coast in the direction of the Gulf of Fonseca.

On 24 July, in a barbaric action, more than 100 former Somozan guards, armed with modern rifles and supported by fire from 60^vmm and 40^vmm mortars, attacked the country town of San Francisco del Norte, situated in the north-western department of Chinandega 12 kilometres from the frontier with Honduras, the result being 14 killed, 8 abducted and 4 wounded.

On 22 July the Nicaraguan authorities announced that a counter-revolutionary plot aimed at seizing a number of localities had been thwarted. Seventy-five counter-revolutionaries and 25 members of our army were killed in this incident. It should be noted that the attackers were well organized and possessed sophisticated weapons, which indicates the existence of an international support network.

On 20 July, members of the Armed Forces of Honduras fired on the frontier post of La Ceiba in the Department of Chinandega with a variety of weapons.

On 19 July an unsuccessful air raid was carried out on the fuel storage tanks at Puerto de Corinto which, if it had achieved its criminal objectives, would have caused a massacre with incalculable consequences. According to witnesses, the aircraft involved came from Honduran territory, to which it returned.

This serious recrudescence of counter-revolutionary activity could not take place without the increasing support and collaboration openly given to counter-revolutionary groups by sectors of the Honduran Army.

Similarly, these acts of aggression cannot be dissociated from the decision of the United States Government to carry out military manoeuvres in collaboration with the Honduran Army which are aimed according to Honduran officials, at "strengthening the defences on the frontier with Nicaragua," or from its use of the Honduran Army to expand its intervention in the conflict in El Salvador.

Our Government will respond to these actions, aimed at provoking a war between Honduras and Nicaragua that would justify greater and more direct intervention against the peoples of Nicaragua and El Salvador by redoubling its efforts to preserve peace and stability in the area and to ensure a climate conducive to the negotiated political settlement of the problems of the region. We once again urge the Government of Honduras to proceed with the agreed meeting between the Chiefs of the armed forces of our two countries, as a first and essential measure to avoid further unnecessary deterioration in the relations between the two countries. We also propose an urgent meeting between Heads of State to consider the situation.

We likewise urge the Government of the United States to accept a process of negotiation with Nicaragua in the spirit of the Mexican proposal and without pre-conditions of any kind.

This is essential to peace in Central America.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jorgé CANDA
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
