



Security Council

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ORIGINAL: SPANISHLETTER DATED 4 AUGUST 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF HONDURAS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the message which was transmitted to me today by His Excellency Dr. Edgardo Paz Barnica, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras, which reads as follows:

"Oficio No. 575, DSM. Tegucigalpa, D.C., 2 August 1982. To the President of the Security Council. I have the honour to address you, Sir, in order to bring to your attention, and through you, to the attention of the distinguished members of the Security Council, the attacks against Honduran property and Honduran territory and the threats of more serious aggression against Honduras made during the past month by the authorities and military forces under the responsibility of the Government of Nicaragua. These hostile acts are of grave concern to our people and Government and may constitute a threat to international peace and security. The constitutional and democratic Government of Honduras, brought to power through free and fair elections and pursuing a foreign policy based on the principles of non-intervention, mutual respect and genuine international co-operation, and dedication to the principle of self-determination of peoples, cannot but lament these unfortunate events. While firmly rejecting the rash accusations made in bad faith against Honduran authorities by officials of the Nicaraguan Government, it expresses its full conviction that peace in Central America and the Caribbean can be maintained effectively if the Governments in the area and the Governments in other regions fulfil these principles and if there is an end to the campaigns of deliberate misinformation and preparation for hostilities which are aggravating the existing climate of regional tension. During the month of July 1982, Nicaragua has endured internal disturbances and incidents of a varying nature and intensity, which it is not for us to describe except to the extent of warning the Government of Nicaragua that it is making a serious mistake in using any problems which it may have with its people as a pretext to justify the arms race on which it has embarked and the acts of aggression committed and threatened against the people and Government of Honduras. It is also regrettable that senior officials of the Nicaraguan Government should increasingly use extremely offensive language against senior authorities of Honduras, accusing them, without any ground whatsoever, of events of an internal nature that are occurring in Nicaragua - an attitude which we certainly cannot accept because it is obviously inconsistent with the climate of

understanding and respect which should prevail in international relations. In July 1982, the people and Government of Honduras were subjected to the following aggressive acts of foreign inspiration or commission. On 3 July: a bomb attack against the offices of the Honduras airline SAHSA in San José, Costa Rica; the Costa Rican police detained several of the attackers, including the Nicaraguan diplomat Herman Altamirano, who as a result was expelled from the country. On 4 July: a dynamite attack against electric power plants in the outskirts of Tegucigalpa, which miraculously caused no loss of life among the thousands of persons living in the neighbouring districts. On 15 July: threats to justify the intervention in Honduras uttered by Comandante Daniel Ortega Saavedra, Co-ordinator of the Junta of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, who stated to press agency correspondents in Madrid that "the Nicaraguan authorities are supporting anti-Government Honduran guerrillas" and "we reserve the right to take a series of actions against that country". On 15 July: the Government of Honduras protested to the Government of Nicaragua about the artillery fire on 14 July which its army had directed against the Honduran population of la Guaruma and el Alto, in the municipality of Concepción de María, Choluteca Department, and which seriously wounded five Honduran peasants. On 16 July: the Government of Honduras protested to the Government of Nicaragua about the capture on 15 July of the Honduran fishing-vessel Bon Soir and its crew of more than 30 persons in waters under the jurisdiction of Honduras. On 17 July: the Government of Honduras protested to the Government of Nicaragua about constant flights by Nicaraguan military helicopters over the communities of Arenales and Sabana Redonda, El Paraíso Department, in overt violation of Honduran air space. On 20 July: the Government of Honduras protested to the Government of Nicaragua that on that date armed patrols of the Sandinist army had penetrated Honduran territory at La Ceiba, Choluteca Department; the patrols were intercepted by elements of the Honduran army and there was an exchange of fire for more than 15 minutes before they withdrew. Honduras has maintained a neutral attitude towards the internal struggles in certain countries of the area, and in respecting others we demand solely that they should respect us. The arms build-up in Nicaragua and the insistence of its rulers on fomenting subversive actions and systematic violations in other countries are not a good augury for peace in Central America and the Caribbean. Nevertheless, our country wishes to reiterate once again its desire for peace and its wish to devise with all the other Governments of the region responsible arrangements which will terminate tension and mistrust and enable our peoples to pursue the economic and social development to which they justly aspire. In this connexion, we reaffirm the basic principles of the peace proposal for Central America which I, as Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras, introduced before the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States on 23 March 1982 and which was brought to the attention of the members of the United Nations Security Council in document S/14919. Several consultations based on our proposal have now been held between the Governments of Central America. Of these I would highlight, as regards Nicaragua, the visit to Tegucigalpa on 21 April of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Miguel D'Escoto, the meeting of the Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces of Honduras and the Army of Nicaragua, held at la Fraternidad on 20 May, and the meeting of Commanders of the Naval Forces of those countries, held at Corinto on 9 July. The Honduran proposal to internationalize peace in Central America, which the States Members of the United Nations are in a position to evaluate objectively, on its own merits, but which unfortunately Nicaragua appears not to

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wish to accept, contains in outline the following elements: first - the termination of the arms race and the reduction of military forces; second - an objective reduction of foreign military and other advisers; third - mechanisms for the international supervision and monitoring of sensitive areas (borders, ports, airports ...), to which Honduras agrees to submit in advance; fourth - mechanisms to halt the traffic in arms in the region; fifth - respect for delimited and demarcated borders and the traditional and jurisdictional frontier-lines of the States in the region; sixth - a permanent multilateral dialogue which, at the internal level, will also create the right climate for political arrangements to strengthen a democratic and pluralistic system that ensures respect for public freedoms and the right of peoples to express their will freely. I request that this note be circulated as a document of the Security Council. Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration. EDGARDO PAZ BARNICA, Minister for Foreign Affairs."

(Signed) Enrique ORTEZ COLINDRES
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
