



Security Council

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ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISHLETTER DATED 21 SEPTEMBER 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF HONDURAS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward to you the following transcript:

"Note No. 2176SC, Tegucigalpa, 18 September 1982. To Mrs. Leonardo Jiménez Flores, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Nicaragua, Tegucigalpa. Madam: I have the honour to present to you the most vigorous protest concerning the violation of Honduran national sovereignty committed by the Nicaraguan Navy. A Honduran patrol boat was on routine patrol three miles north of the 15th parallel, near Bobel and Media Luna Cays, when a patrol boat of the Nicaraguan Navy suddenly entered Honduran territorial waters and opened fire with 20- and 30-millimetre guns on the Honduran vessel, which was forced to take evasive action and return the fire, the exchange of fire lasting 35 minutes. This incident regrettably resulted in the death of Marine Abraham Lester Kattan and the wounding of Captain Miguel Angel Guifarro. One hour after the incident, while the Honduran patrol boat was in the Caratasca lagoon putting ashore the wounded, fighter aircraft, presumably Nicaraguan, flew over the Honduran vessel with the clear intention of sinking it. In informing you of the concern with which my Government views these repeated violations of our sovereignty, I should like you to convey to your Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the gravity of these incidents is not in keeping with the statements made officially both by members of the Junta of National Reconstruction and by your Minister for Foreign Affairs to the effect that a climate of tranquillity prevails on our frontiers; rather, these acts seem to be part of a strategy which is manifestly at variance with those public statements. It must be reiterated that my Government has proposed and is definitely prepared to carry out what has been stated about the maintenance of absolute respect for the delimited, demarcated frontiers and traditional jurisdictional lines of the States of the Central American region, especially as between my country and yours, a proposal which we believe forms the basis for maintaining the kind of peace which our area requires in order to achieve the development goals

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towards which the Constitutional Government is working. Accept, Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration. Rodolfo Rosales Abella, Minister for Foreign Affairs."

I should be grateful if you would have this note circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Enrique ORTEZ COLINDRES
Permanent Ambassador

Annex

Press release

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs begs to inform the public that it has today presented the most vigorous protest to the Government of Nicaragua concerning the serious violations of national sovereignty which have occurred in the Atlantic territorial waters of Honduras.

At 5.15 p.m. today, when a patrol boat of the Honduran Navy was on routine patrol north of the 15th parallel, near Bobel and Media Luna Cays, a Nicaraguan Navy patrol boat suddenly entered Honduran territorial waters and opened fire with 20- and 30-millimetre guns on the Honduran vessel, which was forced to take evasive action and return the fire; the exchange of fire lasted 35 minutes.

The Nicaraguan patrol boat had to withdraw after suffering serious damage to the hull and, presumably, casualties.

The Honduran patrol boat suffered minor damage and, unfortunately, the death of Marine Abraham Lester Kattan and minor wounds to Captain Miguel Angel Guifarro.

Thirty minutes later, the Cisne Islands naval station reported to headquarters that jet fighters had flown over the Islands. These warplanes are presumed to be Cuban, in view of the fact that the Republic of Nicaragua has no aircraft of that type.

One hour later, while the damaged Honduran patrol boat was in the Caratasca Lagoon putting the wounded ashore, fighter aircraft, believed to be Nicaraguan, flew over our naval vessel with the clear intention of sinking it.

This further act of aggression by the Nicaraguan Government has been reported by our representative to the United Nations, with a view to placing on record the fact that our territory has been repeatedly violated by the armed forces of Nicaragua.

Tegucigalpa, D.C., 18 September 1982.

Public Information and Press Department,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Rodolfo Rosales Abella.
