



Security Council

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ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISHLETTER DATED 22 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. DSS-502. Tegucigalpa, 20 September 1982.

To Mr. Leonardo Jiménez Flores, Chargé d'Affaires of Nicaragua, Tegucigalpa.
Sir: This is in reply to your note No. 112 of 19 September 1982 concerning the protest which I lodged the day before, on behalf of my Government, with the Government of Nicaragua (MSG-003), following the unjustified attack on a Honduran patrol boat by a Nicaraguan coastguard vessel. I regret that I cannot agree with some of your statements, particularly those regarding the scene of the aforementioned attack. I reiterate that the attack occurred in the vicinity of Bobel and Media Luna Cays, and not 25 miles east of Cape Gracias a Dios. The Government of Honduras has never denied that there is no legally delimited boundary in the Atlantic between my country and the Republic of Nicaragua. What cannot be denied is that, traditionally, the two Governments have regarded the parallel running through Cape Gracias a Dios as the dividing-line between the two States, pending definitive demarcation. When I speak of tradition and Governments, I am referring to situations that have developed in the course of time through the action of legal entities which, over the years, have represented the respective States. The present Government of Nicaragua, exercising its sovereign powers, has decided to deviate from this tacit agreement that for years prevented distressing situations of the kind now occupying our attention, which adversely affect the already precarious relations between our countries. It was precisely in order to avoid coming to this extreme that my Ministry stated 'that thought might be given to the temporary establishment of a line or zone, without prejudice to the rights that the territorial entities may in the future assert'. The fact that this proposal - which is, moreover, consistent with my Government's unwarlike attitude - has not to date been put into effect leaves the Government of Nicaragua absolutely at liberty to make aggressive incursions into Honduran waters over which Nicaragua claims to have jurisdiction. In my aforementioned protest note I also complain about the presence of military aircraft, presumably Nicaraguan, over the Caratasca lagoon, the status of which, as being lawfully under Honduran sovereignty, I do not

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think even the present Nicaraguan régime will venture to question. For all the above reasons, my Government reiterates its original protest and hopes that the Government of Nicaragua will correct the dangerous course on which it has embarked in its relations with Honduras. Accept, Sir, 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 an official document.

(Signed) Enrique ORTEZ COLINDRES
Permanent Ambassador
