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LETTER DATED 19 MARCH 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NICARAGUA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit the enclosed note from His Excellency  
Daniel Ortega Saavedra, Co-ordinator of the Governing Junta of National  
Reconstruction, requesting a meeting of the Security Council.

(Signed) Javier CHAMORRO MORA  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Nicaragua  
to the United Nations

Annex

Note dated 18 March 1982 from the Co-ordinator of the Governing Junta  
of National Reconstruction to the Secretary-General

The constant worsening of tension in Central America, with the ever-increasing danger of a large-scale military intervention by the armed forces of the United States of America, constitutes a grave threat to the independence and sovereignty of the Central American countries and to international peace and security.

On repeated occasions, in various forums, outstanding authorities of the United States Government, including the President, Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense of that country, have made statements in which they openly, and in an entirely illegal and arbitrary manner, arrogate to themselves the alleged right to intervene in the civil war taking place in El Salvador and to threaten interventionist and aggressive actions against Nicaragua. In each case, these United States representatives have emphasized their readiness to employ whatever means are necessary to accomplish their perverse goals, not precluding the use of military force or the criminal and covert resources of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The systematic repetition of such aggressive statements seriously affects the normal conduct of international relations and brings to mind the unfortunate days in which Yankee imperialism invaded Nicaragua and forced our people, led by Augusto César Sandino, into a long, bloody and heroic war of resistance.

These statements make it clear that the present United States administration, totally ignoring the changes that have taken place in the world and in our area, is trying to revive the gunboat diplomacy which, as in the past, would now encounter the firmest and most tenacious resistance on the part of the Central American peoples.

In its interventionist strategy, the Government of the United States arrogantly ignores the broad international opposition to its policies, voiced by numerous Governments, institutions and personalities in every part of the world and representing the most varied ideological currents, and even disregards the growing concern expressed by United States public opinion on the issue. Recently, the President of Mexico, Mr. José López Portillo, offered constructive proposals for solving the fundamental problems of the region - proposals which my Government and many others received favourably but to which the United States authorities have not yet given a positive response. Nor did the Washington Government accept the initiative put forward by the Revolutionary Democratic Front and the Farabundo Martí Front for the National Liberation of El Salvador, which I had the honour of presenting to the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly on 7 October 1981 and which would have provided a negotiated approach to the Salvadorian conflict and the restoration of peace.

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The bellicose statements by the United States authorities are accompanied by concrete actions that clearly evidence an intention to attack Nicaragua and to intervene directly in El Salvador. It is public knowledge that, in United States territory and with official connivance, armed bands made up of ex-members of the Somoza National Guard and other mercenary groups are organizing and training with the avowed purpose of invading Nicaragua. Elements of the same origin, backed by the CIA, carry out frequent attacks on our country from Honduran territory, where they are preparing to carry out actions on a larger scale.

It has been publicly revealed that the United States Government provided the Central Intelligence Agency with \$19.9 million to finance subversive activities in Nicaraguan territory aimed at destabilizing and overthrowing my Government by force. Yesterday, military, naval and air exercises were completed in the Caribbean region and others are planned in the waters off Central America, with a totally unusual display of military force that can be interpreted only as an attempt to intimidate the peoples in the area. In carrying out these aggressive plans, the United States is utilizing military personnel from a number of Latin American countries which it is trying to drag into a bellicose adventure with unpredictable consequences for the entire continent.

Last week, on Tuesday, 9 March, the United States State Department organized a press conference at which a series of photographs taken in reprehensible acts of espionage flagrantly violating our airspace were made public, with the goal of convincing United States and world public opinion of the threat which an alleged Nicaraguan arms build-up poses to peace in the Central American region. This revelation, as The New York Times pointed out in its editorial on 11 March, did not prove in any way the existence of something alarming in Nicaragua. It was merely a publicity manoeuvre which the Reagan administration had prepared in order to create a climate in which public opinion would accept an invasion of Nicaragua. The most important part of this slanderous campaign backfired on them on Friday, 12 March, when the youth Orlando José Tardencillas Espinoza told the press that he had been taken to the United States illegally in order to tell, under threat of death, a series of lies implicating the Nicaraguan Government in the Salvadorian conflict.

This very week, despite the fact that the Castafeda-Haig talks on the Central American crisis had still not concluded, terrorists financed by the Central Intelligence Agency operating from Honduran territory blew up two of our main bridges at dawn on Monday, 15 March.

Also on 15 March, as they were sailing in a small boat in Nicaraguan waters in the Gulf of Fonseca, Juan José Martínez and David Atila Ruíz, Nicaraguan citizens, were attacked and machine-gunned by a coastguard vessel of the Honduran Navy and their whereabouts are still unknown. Days later, on 17 March, another attack on a Nicaraguan fishing vessel took place in our country's territorial waters in the Gulf of Fonseca. This time it was a coastguard vessel of the Navy of El Salvador that attacked, gravely wounding Nicaraguan citizen Bernardo Dávila Blanco. All these aggressions have the deliberate aim of creating the conditions needed to justify foreign intervention against Nicaragua.

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A careful analysis of the circumstances surrounding all these developments led us to the conclusion that an invasion of Nicaragua is imminent, and forced us to declare a state of emergency.

It is particularly reprehensible that a permanent member of the Security Council, the United States, is so flagrantly violating the Charter of the United Nations and behaving in a manner that is contrary to the principles and purposes of the Organization.

The Government and people of Nicaragua fervently desire peace in order to reconstruct a country severely affected by long years of exploitation and injustices at the hands of the Somoza tyranny, supported by the mistaken policy of the United States. But with the same determination and at whatever price, we shall defend our independence and sovereignty.

The international community has a duty to act to prevent a new aggression against the Central American peoples and to preserve the peace.

In view of the gravity of the situation, I ask you, Mr. Secretary-General, to make the necessary arrangements for the Security Council to meet as a matter of urgency and hear the exposition that I shall personally make in the name of the people and Government of Nicaragua, with the certainty that it will adopt whatever measures are necessary to contain the conflagration which becomes imminent today as a result of this decision to intervene in Central America.

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