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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA;
THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE
AND SECURITY AND PEACE
INITIATIVES

Letter dated 25 April 1988 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of Honduras to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the annexed note dated 21 April 1988 addressed by Mr. Carlos López Contreras, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras, to Mr. Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the forty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Julio RENDON BARNICA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Note dated 21 April 1988 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Honduras addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of
Nicaragua

I am writing with reference to your note of 20 April 1988, in which your Government strongly protests against the fact that the Government of Honduras has authorized the provision to Nicaraguan groups of the humanitarian aid approved by the United States Congress with the affirmative vote of representatives and senators belonging both to the Republican Party and to the Democratic Party.

I consider that your protest is totally unfounded, in view of the fact that the aid in question was approved, with the concurrence of the Government of Nicaragua, once a provisional cease-fire had been agreed upon, precisely in order to facilitate the Esquipulas II Agreement and the Sapoa negotiations, which were still under way.

What the Government of Honduras has permitted is that it should be made possible for the aid in question, under the supervision of the Agency for International Development, the Catholic Church and the private firm Price Waterhouse, to reach those groups of Nicaraguans who are in the country and who do not enjoy the protection of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

With regard to the action initiated by the Government of Nicaragua against the Government of Honduras before the International Court of Justice, you are fully aware of my country's consistent position from the outset of the case, which is, in brief, that any negotiating forum, whether it be called Contadora or Esquipulas, is incompatible with the legal action brought before the Court. It would be closer to the truth to state that it is the obstinate attitude of the Government of Nicaragua in not desisting from the claim, even in the face of the concrete protests made by the Government of Honduras with a view to resolving the frontier questions, that has continually sabotaged the various efforts to arrive at a regional agreement. The purpose of Honduras' request for the setting of a date for the next hearing was to avoid having Nicaragua continue trying to manipulate this claim before the Court in order to achieve its own political ends. It is, then, on your Government that the advance or stagnation of the Guatemala Procedure and the San José Declaration depends.

The text of this note also will be transmitted to the International Court of Justice.

Carlos LOPEZ CONTRERAS
Minister for Foreign Affairs
