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LETTER DATED 25 APRIL 1988 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.  
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF NICARAGUA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith notes dated 20 April 1988 from His Excellency Mr. Miquel D'Escoto Brockmann, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua, addressed to Mr. George Shultz, Secretary of State of the United States of America, and His Excellency Mr. Carlos López Contreras, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Honduras.

I should be grateful if you would have these notes circulated as documents of the Security Council.

(Signed) Julio ICAZA GALLARD  
Ambassador  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex I

Letter dated 20 April 1988 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of Nicaragua addressed to the Secretary of State of the United  
States of America

The spokesman for the Agency for International Development (AID), Mr. Roger Noriega, has confirmed the commencement of the provision of so-called "humanitarian aid" to the irregular forces in Honduran territory, in blatant violation of the spirit and the letter of Esquipulas II and the Sapoa agreement.

The Government of Nicaragua strongly protests against this irresponsible conduct on the part of the United States Government, which is not only systematically blocking the implementation of the above-mentioned agreements but is openly pressuring the ringleader of the counter-revolution, Enrique Bermudez, and other leaders of the irregular forces to reject the Sapoa agreement and continue terrorist acts against the Nicaraguan peoples.

This policy of your Government continues to involve the territory of Nicaragua's neighbour countries, in this case, Honduran soil, as a base from which to launch assaults that run counter to the will for peace of the Central American Presidents, expressed with the signature of the Esquipulas II Agreement.

On other occasions, the Government of Nicaragua has firmly denounced and condemned the manoeuvres carried out by your Government with the purpose of affording "aid" to the contras, in a manner violating international law, the Esquipulas II Agreement and the Sapoa agreement.

The Sapoa agreement itself states clearly that humanitarian aid "will be channelled through neutral organizations". Clearly, an agency belonging to the Government that has financed, armed and directed the brutal aggression imposed on Nicaragua is entirely the contrary of what is to be understood as a "neutral organization".

In accordance with the Esquipulas II Agreement, the only aid permitted is that for the "reintegration into normal life" of former members of irregular forces. Consequently, humanitarian aid should be provided to the irregular groups that have concentrated in the zones referred to in point 2 of the Sapoa agreement, in the context of a process designed to achieve the reincorporation in civilian life of the members of such irregular groups. Such a concentration of forces should be established by the Verification Commission provided for in the Sapoa agreement.

Any other type of conditions and modalities for the provision of humanitarian aid is not only absolutely incompatible with the principles agreed on but also encourages the continuation of the war and creates conditions for Honduras' continued non-fulfilment of its commitment to prevent the use of its territory by persons, organizations and groups seeking to destabilize other Governments.

Miguel D'ESCOTO BROCKMANN  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Annex II

Letter dated 20 April 1988 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of Nicaragua to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras

I have the honour to refer to the authorization given by the Government of your country for the United States Administration, through the Agency for International Development (AID), to provide "aid" to the irregular forces that are in Honduran territory. Such authorization is mentioned in a press release issued by the information and press office of your country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 19 April 1988.

The Government of Nicaragua registers a strong protest at the fact that Honduras is, once again, acting in clear violation of the spirit and the letter of Esquipulas II and interfering in the proper implementation of the agreement signed at Sapoá, by lending itself to the manoeuvres of the Government of the United States, the sole objective of which is to sabotage peace efforts.

As you will recall, under section 5 of the Esquipulas II Agreement, it is "vital" for the attainment of peace that any kind of aid to the irregular forces be terminated, except that intended for "the repatriation or, failing that, the relocation and necessary assistance with reintegration into normal life of former members of such groups or forces".

Logically, such an exception cannot apply in the case of armed groups that are in Honduras and that openly declare their decision to disregard the Sapoá agreement and continue terrorist acts against Nicaragua.

We cannot omit to point out that the unilateral reactivation by Honduras of the legal action instituted by Nicaragua before the International Court of Justice, through a request for the setting of the date of the next hearing, is motivated by the search for a pretext to continue refusing the establishment of permanent mobile units in its territory to carry out the essential on-the-spot verification of the implementation of the security agreements, in accordance with the "Guatemala Procedure" and the declaration signed at Alajuela.

I should inform you that a copy of this note is being transmitted to the International Court of Justice.

Miguel D'ESCOTO BROCKMANN  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

