



Security Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/15606  
11 February 1983  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

LETTER DATED 9 FEBRUARY 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
HONDURAS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from Dr. Edgardo Paz Barnica, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras, I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of the note of protest sent by our Government to the Ambassador of Nicaragua, Dr. Guillermo Suarez Rivas, the text of which reads as follows:

"Dr. Enrique Ortez Colindres, Ambassador of Honduras to the United Nations, New York. In order that you may bring it to the attention of the President of the Security Council of the United Nations, I am sending you herewith the text of the note, which reads as follows: Tegucigalpa, D.C. 9 February 1983. Sir: I have the honour to request you once again to transmit to the illustrious Government of the Republic of Nicaragua the forceful protest formulated by the Government of the Republic of Honduras with regard to the following facts: on Monday, 7 February 1983, at 11.30 a.m., the fishing vessel Morning Mist, which was in Honduran territorial waters 15 miles northeast of Cape Gracias a Dios, was attacked without warning by an aircraft of the Nicaraguan Air Force, which twice strafed the defenceless fishing vessel, dropping two bombs, each weighing approximately one hundred (100) pounds. These regrettable acts do not contribute to the maintenance of peace. The Nicaraguan authorities have on many occasions asserted that they wish to maintain peace, but in practice the situation is quite different, giving the impression that these assertions are made for propaganda purposes. On behalf of my Government, I wish to formulate a further vigorous protest with regard to the aforementioned hostile acts. It was in order to avoid such regrettable incidents that my Government proposed to Nicaragua the establishment of a set of mechanisms, contained in a document delivered to the Nicaraguan authorities last year by the Commander of the Naval Forces of Honduras at the meeting held in Corinto, Nicaragua. To date, the Government of Honduras has received no reply, despite the fact that during my visit to Nicaragua in November 1982, I reiterated the Honduran proposal and requested Licenciado Victor Hugo Tinoco, Minister for Foreign Affairs a.i. to set a date for a discussion of our proposal by the Commanders of the Naval Forces of the two countries. I take this opportunity to reiterate the

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assurances of my highest consideration. (Signed) Edgardo Paz Barnica,  
Minister for Foreign Affairs to His Excellency Dr. Guillermo Suarez Rivas,  
Ambassador of the Republic of Nicaragua, Tegucigalpa."

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this note to be circulated as a  
document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Enrique ORTEZ COLINDRES  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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