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LETTER DATED 25 MARCH 1983 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF NICARAGUA  
ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to bring to your attention and to the attention of the distinguished members of the Security Council the following annexed documents.

- I. Message from the Governing Junta of National Reconstruction issued on 21 March 1983;
- II. Text of a note of protest addressed to His Excellency Mr. Edgardo Paz Barnica, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras, by Her Excellency Mrs. Nora Astorga, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua, on 22 March 1983;
- III. Official communiqué of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Nicaragua issued on 23 March 1983;
- IV. Text of a note of protest addressed to His Excellency Mr. Edgardo Paz Barnica, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Honduras, by Her Excellency Mrs. Nora Astorga, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua, on 24 March 1983;
- V. Text of a note of protest addressed to His Excellency Mr. Edgardo Paz Barnica, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras, by Her Excellency Mrs. Nora Astorga, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua, on 24 March 1983.

The events denounced in the last-mentioned note of protest, contained in annex V, are particularly serious in the view of my Government. They show how well-founded was our concern in bringing this matter before this exalted forum over which you preside and prove what we have been maintaining. The infiltration into Nicaraguan territory of criminal former Somoza guardsmen, who are encouraged and supported by the current United States Administration and who receive all kinds of facilities in Honduran territory, represents a new phase, which is characterized also by the provocation of serious frontier incidents by the Honduran armed forces,

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all of which could serve as a pretext for greater involvement of the Honduran army and other forces in action against Nicaragua.

I request you to have this note and its annexes circulated as documents of the Security Council.

(Signed) Victor-Hugo TINOCO F.  
Deputy Minister  
for Foreign Affairs  
Representative of Nicaragua  
on the Security Council

Annex I

Message from the Governing Junta of National Reconstruction  
issued on 21 March 1983

Fellow Nicaraguans,

You have just been fully and objectively informed about the further escalation of acts of aggression against our country and people, lauched once again from outside our frontiers and conforming to the plans of the United States Government.

In view of this situation, the Governing Junta of National Reconstruction wishes to make the following statement to the people of Nicaragua and to the Governments of the world:

1. This new phase of the aggression against Nicaragua, which has continued without a break ever since the triumph of the revolution, is not only military but is being planned by the United States Government in the economic and financial field as well, in an attempt to deprive us of access to sources of credit, and in the political and diplomatic field, inasmuch as the Reagan Administration has been trying to isolate our country and our revolution.

2. The efforts of the Yankee Government to that end have thus far been fruitless, because we have been able to retain the initiative and have accordingly remained on the offensive militarily, in international economic affairs, and politically and diplomatically. During these four years of revolutionary reconstruction we have won many battles in all these fields, and there is no doubt but that we shall continue to do so. The enemy will continue to be defeated.

3. The Yankee Government, which is directing and encouraging these acts of aggression, is trying to take advantage of Nicaragua's difficult current economic circumstances, which are not peculiar to our country and prevail in all the poor countries of the world, especially those of Latin America. The world crisis, which was created by the United States itself, is hitting our country particularly hard in terms of shortage of foreign exchange.

However, we regard the economic crisis as simply one more difficulty that we shall inevitably overcome, just as we shall continue to defeat the acts of aggression. That is what our revolution is all about, and that is why we are transforming the country.

4. The revolutionary Government is fully capable of taking all necessary measures to ensure the defence of the country, and hence the total defeat of the counter-revolution which the Yankee Government is encouraging. We shall mobilize whatever resources are needed for this purpose and shall make use of all the legal and institutional instruments at the Government's disposal, such as the economic and social emergency laws and the military emergency laws.

Political pluralism continues to prevail in Nicaragua. But just as we shall be strenuous in combating the Somoza guardsmen, so also shall we be strenuous in confronting the diversionary tactics and internal manoeuvres of those, deprived of their former privileges, who are enemies of the people and of the revolution, who disguise themselves in order to try to undermine the power of the people and, although they may not show it or may conceal it, are true allies of the Somoza guardsmen. For this purpose, we shall make use of the revolutionary laws.

5. Production and services must continue to expand in accordance with the social and economic objectives of the revolution. We shall ensure that military needs are effectively supplied, without serious damage to the planting and harvesting of crops, to industrial, mining, forestry and fisheries production, or to transport and other national services.

It should be noted that, despite the blockade and acts of aggression to which we have been subjected, we have had the best cotton and coffee crops of any year since the revolution, considerably overfulfilling the targets. The sugar crop will also set a record, and meat production will be higher than last year.

We have already announced, well in advance, the new export production incentives, the amounts of bank financing for agricultural production and the prices at which the State is purchasing maize, beans rice and sorghum. We are ready to produce and ready to fight.

6. The revolutionary Government has the capability to guarantee the people reasonable supplies of food and essential articles, and we are proceeding with the necessary measures to normalize the distribution of such things as olive oil and soap. This was our aim in nationalizing the distribution of those goods, and also the distribution of sugar and flour. We shall try to enhance the effectiveness of the Government in ensuring that essential goods actually reach the working people and shall take vigorous action against speculation, cornering of markets and profiteering, which are ways of destabilizing the revolutionary process and also provide a cover for counter-revolutionary activities.

7. In order that the costs of mobilizing for defence and for wiping out the Somoza guardsmen may be met, the special levy introduced last year under Decree No. 1003 will continue.

8. Internal stability for our country means that all productive processes, work in the factories and the fields and our normal rate of exports must continue to grow. We are sure that our people will redouble their efforts in these tasks, with determination and patriotism.

Nicaragua presents to the world, in both its political and its economic relations, an image of constancy and stability. We are a respected country, and we shall continue to consolidate that respect and that trustworthiness.

9. Lastly, we wish to inform our people that we are, as from today, communicating to all Governments of countries friendly to Nicaragua and political forces throughout the world that support our revolution, and to the organizations of which we are full members, such as the United Nations and the Non-Aligned Movement, details of this new escalation of acts of aggression, so that they may lend us their support and solidarity. As members of the United Nations Security Council, we intend to report these acts to the Council. Nicaragua is not alone. And they shall not pass.

Governing Junta of National Reconstruction

Annex II

Text of a note of protest addressed to Mr. Edgardo Paz Barnica,  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras, by Mrs. Nora Astorga,  
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua,  
on 22 March 1983

Managua, 22 March 1983

I have the honour to inform you of the latest acts of aggression to which the territory of Nicaragua has been subjected by military elements of the Honduran armed forces.

On 20 March 1983, at 4.06 p.m., soldiers of the Honduran army, stationed in the place called Las Lomas de Los Pastores in Honduran territory, fired upon the Nicaraguan observation bridge of Vado Ancho, situated 2 kilometres south-west of Santo Tomás del Nance in the Department of Chinandega, with rifles, 50-calibre machine-guns and 81 mm mortars. Subsequently, at 5.35 p.m., the Honduran military elements launched a second attack on that part of the national territory. Our troops, in strict compliance with the orders of our Government of National Reconstruction to avoid this type of provocation, did not respond to these acts of aggression.

Today, at 9 a.m., in the Palo Verde sector, situated two kilometres west of Santo Tomás del Nance, the Honduran army proceeded to deploy forces extensively in the vicinity of the frontier line.

In the present critical circumstances, in which Nicaragua is being subjected to an extremely serious escalation of aggression by the counter-revolutionary forces operating in and from the territory of Honduras, the acts of provocation just described are fully consistent with the interventionist and warmongering plans of the United States Government, whose ultimate aim is to destroy the Nicaraguan revolutionary process. It is part of these plans to provoke an open war between Honduras and Nicaragua, a serious threat which we have been denouncing for a long time. On various occasions we have made strong representations to the Government of Honduras concerning the necessity of preventing a growing deterioration of the situation between the two countries so that it does not become a fratricidal conflict which would spell the doom of our peoples.

In protesting energetically against these attacks on the national territory, Nicaragua appeals to the Government of Honduras to show good sense and moderation at the same time as it demands the cessation of all acts of aggression and intervention against our country by the armed forces of Honduras.

(Signed) Nora ASTORGA  
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Annex III

Official communiqué of the Ministry of Defence of the  
Republic of Nicaragua issued on 23 March 1983

The Public and External Relations Section of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Nicaragua reports the following:

FIRST

That, on 23 March 1983, at 9.30 a.m., in the frontier sector San Fernando-Jalapa Department of Nueva Segovia, troops of the Sandinist People's Army intercepted a unit of Somoza counter-revolutionaries proceeding from Honduran territory.

SECOND

As a result of this armed attack, three soldiers of the Sandinist People's Army heroically sacrificed their lives.

THIRD

Our troops killed 12 of the Somoza enemies, capturing at the same time the following war matériel: 15 FAL automatic rifles; 1 RPG-7 CHINO rocket launcher; several kilogrammes of C-4 plastic explosive.

FOURTH

Troops of the Sandinist People's Army are continuing their military operations in order to complete the annihilation of the remainder of the aforesaid counter-revolutionary unit.

Annex IV

Text of a note of protest addressed to His Excellency  
Mr. Edgardo Paz Barnica, Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of Honduras by Her Excellency Mrs. Nora Astorga,  
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic  
of Nicaragua, on 24 March 1983

The purpose of this note is to bring the following to your attention:

At 8.10 a.m. today, 24 March, troops of the Honduran army opened fire from their positions in Honduran territory on the Nicaraguan armed forces' observation post on La Zopilota hill, two kilometres south-west of San Pedro de Potrero Grande, department of Chinandega. The attack, in which gunfire from various types of weapons was used, lasted 15 minutes.

Later that day at noon, another Honduran military unit made an attack with gunfire on a patrol of the Sandinist People's Army at a place called El Oyate, six kilometres north-west of the frontier post at El Espino, department of Madriz, wounding one member of the Nicaraguan patrol.

Moreover, at 9.30 a.m. today, 23 March, troops of the Sandinist People's Army intercepted a unit of Somoza counter-revolutionaries who were attempting to infiltrate into Nicaraguan territory from Honduran territory. As a result of this engagement three of our soldiers were killed, with 15 FAL automatic rifles, one RPG-7 rocket-launcher of Chinese manufacture and several kilograms of C-4 plastic explosives being seized from the counter-revolutionaries.

As was stated to you on previous occasions, the provocative and aggressive attitude adopted by the Honduran armed forces and the support given to the counter-revolutionary forces based in your country, which have recently launched a large-scale invasion of Nicaragua, constitute the most serious threat to peace and security in the region. Although all the events which have been happening on our common frontier for over three and a half years and which have reached a peak in recent months, are a direct consequence of the interventionist policy of the Government of the United States, those plans and that policy could not succeed without the participation and toleration of the Honduran authorities.

The provocative acts of and attacks on our territory by troops of the armed forces of Honduras are involving that army even more deeply in the United States' design to provoke open conflict between Honduras and Nicaragua, which would serve as a pretext for United States military intervention in Central America, with all the consequences that a military adventure on that scale would have for Central America and the world. Recognizing the impending danger for our peoples, we reiterate our appeal to the Government of Honduras, for reflection and prudence, which could prevent these threats from becoming reality, for the good of our peoples.



In conveying to you its most vigorous and firm protest against the acts of aggression described above, the Government of Nicaragua repeats its invitation to use the peaceful means of dispute settlement laid down by international law and demands an immediate halt to the attacks on our territory.

(Signed) Nora ASTORGA  
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs

Annex V

Text of a note of protest addressed to His Excellency  
Mr. Edgardo Paz Barnica, Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of Honduras, by Her Excellency Mrs. Nora Astorga,  
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic  
of Nicaragua, on 24 March 1983

I am writing to inform you of the following facts, the gravity of which I need not stress.

Today, at 10 a.m., an undetermined number of troops belonging to the armed forces of Honduras crossed the international frontiers between our countries, entering the national territory of Nicaragua and attacking a patrol of the Sandinist People's Army in the sector known as the Valle "Las Papayas" located 3 kilometres north-west of the Espino frontier-post in the Department of Madriz. The treacherous attack resulted in the wounding of one member of the Nicaraguan patrol, which repulsed the invading forces, which returned in haste to Honduras, so that the casualties of the aggressors are not known.

The Government of Nicaragua expresses once again its profound concern at the increasing participation of the Honduran army in acts of aggression and intervention against Nicaragua, in perfect accord with the military and interventionist plans of the United States, which envisage, inter alia, the provocation of serious frontier incidents between Honduras and Nicaragua to serve as a pretext for the initiation of an open confrontation between the two countries. This danger, which we have persistently denounced, must be the subject of the most serious reflections on the part of your Government, if it is really, as it claims, interested in preventing the materialization of the bellicose projects of the United States.

As I protest, on behalf of my Government, this most recent and unspeakable act of aggression against our territory and our sovereignty, I reiterate once again our call to peace and to means for the peaceful settlement of disputes, in accordance with international law.

(Signed) Nora Astorga  
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Nicaragua

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