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

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the note dated 9 September 1983 from Her Excellency Dr. Nora Astorga, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, addressed to His Excellency Mr. Arnulfo Pineda Lopez, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras:

"Sir,

"I take this opportunity to inform you of the following:

"Today, 8 September 1983, at approximately 11.00 hours, an artillery boat of the Sandinist Navy, while on routine patrol duty to the north of Puerto Cabezas, came upon a Honduran fishing boat fishing illegally in Nicaraguan waters. The Honduran pirate fishing boat took flight when it saw the Nicaraguan artillery boat and the latter gave chase. Another Nicaraguan vessel arrived to help capture the Honduran fishing boat. It should be mentioned that pirate fishing boats flying the Honduran flag are constantly entering these waters, posing a serious threat to the conservation of a number of marine species which are important to the national economy and to that of the inhabitants of our Atlantic coast.

"On a level with Bismona lagoon, about 50 kilometres south-east of Cabo Gracias a Dios, three Honduran coastguard vessels appeared on the scene, having entered Nicaraguan territorial waters illegally, and absolutely without cause cunningly attacked our two naval artillery boats. The latter responded to the attack, in exercise of their right of self-defence and in fulfilment of their duty to safeguard the integrity of the national territory.

"At 12.11 hours, an indefinite number of Honduran warplanes illegally entered Nicaraguan airspace to reinforce the coastguard vessels, which conducted threatening manoeuvres against the Nicaraguan vessels. This situation persisted until 13.18 hours and resulted in the wounding of the radio operator of one of the Nicaraguan boats.

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"The Government of Nicaragua, while making a formal and strong protest to the Government of Honduras at this unwarranted attack and violation of Nicaraguan territory, demands the immediate withdrawal of the Honduran warplanes and coastguard vessels from Nicaragua's sovereign maritime territory and airspace and holds that Government responsible for the outcome of the serious events described above.

(Signed) Nora ASTORGA  
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs"

I request that this note be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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

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