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LETTER DATED 25 APRIL 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 herewith the text of a note of protest addressed to His Excellency Dr. Edgardo Paz Barnica, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras by His Excellency Mr. Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua, on 19 April 1983.

"Sir,

"I refer to your note No. 228DSM of 15 April 1983, in connection with an incident that occurred on 14 April in the Caribbean Sea and in which you allege that two Honduran fishing vessels were attacked by two Nicaraguan patrol boats.

"We regret that we do not agree with your version, since it refers to an incident of which Nicaragua complained on the very date on which it occurred, to wit: on 14 April 1983, at 3 p.m., a Super Mystère aircraft belonging to the Honduran Air Force entered Nicaraguan air space in patent violation of our sovereignty and attacked the Nicaraguan fishing vessel Pescasa 9, belonging to the Nicaraguan Fisheries Institute, with machine gun and rocket fire for a period of approximately 10 minutes. This unwarranted aggression occurred after the Nicaraguan fishing vessel had detained the Honduran-registered fishing vessel Neo King, which had been fishing illegally in the territorial waters of Nicaragua, 30 miles east of Cape Gracias a Dios; the Nicaraguan fishing vessel was completely unarmed.

"Moreover, Nicaragua is unable to accept the statement in your note to the effect that Bobel and Media Luna Keys are situated in the territorial waters of Honduras. As the Government of Honduras has admitted on various occasions those territories are not Honduran territories. It should also be remembered that Nicaragua and Honduras have not delimited their territorial waters in the Caribbean Sea, and that this is the only area which remains to be delimited between our countries.

"In conclusion, it should be made clear that the meeting of the heads of our respective naval forces was unsuccessful and unable to continue its work not because of Nicaragua but because of the position taken by the armed forces of Honduras in increasing their support and assistance to the Somoza mercenary force which is attacking our country and the attacks on our territory by that same army. My Government therefore rejects all the points made in your note No. 228 since they do not correspond to the true facts of the case and lack any serious foundation.

"Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

"(Signed) Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann
Minister for Foreign Affairs"

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

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