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LETTER DATED 21 OCTOBER 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 the note dated 20 October 1983 from Her Excellency Dr. Nora Astorga, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua, addressed to His Excellency Mr. Edgardo Paz Barnica, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras.

"Sir,

"I am writing to draw your attention to the following serious events.

"On 18 October 1983, at 5.30 a.m., a group estimated at between 250 and 300 Somozan mercenaries coming from Honduran territory, made an incursion into the village of Pantasma, 18 kilometres north-west of San Rafael del Norte, in the Department of Jinotega, attacking the civilian population, composed for the most part of peasants working in co-operatives, and killing 47 of them. As a result of this criminal action, the village of Pantasma was completely destroyed.

"You will understand that this barbaric and inhuman attack constitutes the crime of genocide, which has been defined as the mass extermination of innocent populations.

"Events such as those described above should, we believe, cause your Government to reflect on the complicity and participation of the Honduran authorities in the commission of such criminal acts which could not occur if the Government of Honduras refused to allow its territory to be used as a base for acts of aggression against Nicaragua. Obviously, this calls for the full exercise by the Honduran authorities of the rights Honduras enjoys as a sovereign nation, without subordinating its sovereignty to the interventionist plans of the United States Administration which is increasingly involving the Honduran army in the direct execution of terrorist acts against Nicaragua.

"The Government of Nicaragua, in presenting this most formal and vigorous protest to the Government of Honduras, requests the authorities of that

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country to adopt measures which will ensure that its territory is not used for the perpetration of acts of aggression and genocide against the Nicaraguan population.

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

(Signed) Nora ASTORGA
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs"

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

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