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LETTER DATED 7 FEBRUARY 1984 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF HONDURAS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the notes dated 3 and 6 February 1984, respectively, sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua by His Excellency Arnulfo Pineda López, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras. In the texts in question the Government of Honduras voices its outrage in vigorously rejecting the unfounded and irresponsible accusations levelled against it by the Government of Nicaragua in its notes dated 2 and 3 February 1984, in which it asserts that aircraft flying from Honduras overflew Nicaraguan airspace and carried out attacks within that country.

I should be extremely grateful if you would have the annexed texts, which have been brought to the attention of the Organization of American States, circulated as Council documents.

(Signed) H. Roberto HERRERA CACERES
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I

Note dated 3 February 1984 from the Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Honduras addressed to the Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Nicaragua

"Communication No. 074-DA. Tegucigalpa, D.C., 3 February 1984. His Excellency Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Managua, Nicaragua. Sir, I acknowledge receipt of your telex dated 2 February 1984, which was received today, concerning the unfounded accusation made by your Government that six fighter-bomber aircraft flying from Honduras attacked a Sandinist military unit and a civilian communications centre in the Department of Chinandega yesterday at 5.30 p.m. The Government of Honduras, which is greatly outraged, vigorously rejects that hasty accusation and wishes to state categorically, through this communication, that no Honduran military aircraft has overflow Nicaraguan territory, which means that the information in question must be considered absolutely false. I wish to draw your attention to the serious harm caused when irresponsible accusations are made against the Republic of Honduras, which have in time proved to be false, as in the case of the statements attributed to Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, the architect. Moreover, the Government of Honduras considers it regrettable that the Government of Nicaragua is resorting to procedures that are at variance with the principle of good faith in international relations and is denouncing imaginary external threats to and attacks against its territory, with a view to preventing a process of internal democratization from being established, obstructing détente in the region and, in short, hampering the efforts being made through diplomatic channels, in the context of the initiative undertaken by the Contadora Group, to achieve a climate conducive to security, peace, democracy and economic and social development in Central America. Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration. (Signed) Arnulfo Pineda López, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs."

Annex II

Note dated 6 February 1984 from the Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Honduras addressed to the Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Nicaragua

"Communication No. 076-DA. Tegucigalpa, D.C., 6 February 1984. His Excellency Victor Hugo Tinoco. Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Managua, Nicaragua. Sir, I acknowledge receipt of your message dated 3 February in which you inform me that at 6 a.m. on that date four aircraft of the Push and Pull type, allegedly flying from Honduran territory, attacked a military unit of the Sandinist People's Army located in the Manzanillo sector in the Department of Chinandega, an action in respect of which the Government of Nicaragua is lodging a most formal and vigorous protest with the Government of Honduras. In reply, I cannot but reiterate the statement made in my note dated 3 February 1984, in which my Government rejects with outrage a similar accusation, also based on an air attack on another Sandinist military facility. I feel it is necessary to explain to you once again that the peaceful attitude of the Government of Honduras is both unchanging and sincere, as demonstrated by the fact that it has been consistently participating in a constructive manner in the meetings of the Contadora Group. The steps that have been taken to raise professional standards in the Honduran armed forces, including the manoeuvres held jointly with United States Army personnel, are of an entirely defensive nature and are a response to the boundless arms race in which Nicaragua is engaging and the undisguisable interventionist attitude adopted by the Government of Nicaragua in other Central American countries in its endeavour to internationalize the internal conflict that it is currently facing. Honduras is a champion of peace, which is precisely why it has a duty to fight to defend the rule of law, justice and democracy freely chosen by it. Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration. (Signed) Arnulfo Pineda López, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs."
