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LETTER DATED 19 APRIL 1989 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
NICARAGUA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Enclosed please find the content of the letter addressed by the Foreign Minister of Nicaragua, His Excellency Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, to the Secretary of State of the United States of America, His Excellency James Baker, in the Spanish version, with an unofficial English translation.

In requesting Your Excellency to circulate the above-mentioned letter as a document of the Security Council, I avail myself of this opportunity to express to you the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

(Signed) Alejandro SERRANO CALDERA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

[Original: Spanish]*

Annex

Letter dated 16 April 1989 from the Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Nicaragua addressed to the Secretary of State
of the United States of America

We are fully aware that the bipartisan agreement, together with the subsequent passage of the bill for further "humanitarian assistance" for your Contras, provides several options for the use of the funds granted and that some of those options are legitimate and fully within the spirit of the Central American peace accords.

For Nicaragua, however, there is a real problem inasmuch as the bipartisan agreement and the law relating to it provide the option of maintaining intact in Honduras, for at least one more year, the terrorist machinery which President Reagan established in the mistaken belief that we would give in and thereby be deprived of our right to self-determination.

This is the reason for our stating that the new bipartisan agreement and law are, in fact, a green light for the United States executive branch to continue to disregard the Judgment of the International Court of Justice of 27 June 1986, to continue to violate the most sacred principles of international law and, in short, to continue to kill God only knows how many more thousands of Nicaraguans.

It is already evident that the United States Government is doing everything possible to ensure that the option of maintaining the Contras intact should prevail and that, to this end, it is making full use of its well-known "persuasive" methods to ensure that Honduras will continue to be "willing" to act as an accomplice of United States lawlessness.

We have no doubt that many well-intentioned people have agreed to the bipartisan agreement and the passage of the bill to provide aid to the Contras because they hope and believe that the new United States Government is really trying to bring its actions into line with its solemn international commitments and to put an end to its unlawful interventionist policy against my country. Obviously, these well-intentioned persons still place some trust in their Government.

When it comes to the patriotic Nicaraguans, however, who are not on the CIA payroll or who have not volunteered to act as "local pawns" of the CIA or the Embassy, how can they be expected to trust the United States Government in view of the long history of utter disregard for the international legal order, including the Charter of the United Nations, which your country, as a permanent member of the Security Council, has a duty to respect, defend and promote.

* Translation by the United Nations Secretariat.

The statements which you yourself made at the hearings on 12 April before the foreign operations sub-committee of the Senate Appropriations Committee suffice to convince anyone that your sole intention is to maintain the Contras intact as a military threat against our people.

You have said on other occasions that you would like to see the attainment of peace in Central America. Your Government could do much to bring this about if it would:

- (1) Become a law-abiding Government, respectful of the principle of the sovereign equality of all nations, regardless of their size or economic and military might;
- (2) Comply with the Judgment of the International Court of Justice of 27 June 1986 by terminating immediately your interventionist policy against Nicaragua;
- (3) Comply with the request of the Central American Presidents contained in the Esquipulas II accords to terminate all aid for irregular forces except that provided for "the repatriation or, failing that, the relocation and necessary assistance with reintegration into normal life of former members of such groups or forces";
- (4) Comply with the firm request of all the Central American Presidents made on 14 February in San Salvador to halt immediately all aid for irregular forces and insurrectionist movements with the sole exception of the humanitarian aid referred to in section 5 of the aforementioned Esquipulas II accords.

We continue to await you, or your high-ranking representative, at the negotiating table in order to discuss our mutual security concerns in a civilized manner. Step forward yourselves. Do not continue to hide behind your worn-out and discredited Contra mask. Speak your mind. We shall listen and shall also speak our minds. It is difficult to see why the large and powerful United States should fear direct and frank dialogue, when the small, impoverished and still bleeding Nicaragua does not.

The international community fails to understand why the United States continues to reject dialogue with Nicaragua. In fact, many are beginning to suspect that the real reason is your reluctance to find yourself in a situation of having to admit openly that you do indeed believe that might makes right, or, in other words, of acknowledging openly that you do not believe in the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Organization of American States, which you have an obligation to observe, as the International Court of Justice so firmly reminded you.

Our knowledge and appreciation of the people of the United States, however, and above all our faith in God, and therefore in the possibility of a better future for mankind, lead us sincerely to hope that these suspicions are unfounded.

Miguel D'ESCOTO BROCKMANN
Minister for Foreign Affairs