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LETTER DATED 6 DECEMBER 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF NICARAGUA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the text of the note sent to Mr. Edgardo Paz Barnica, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras, by Mr. Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua, dated 5 December 1983:

"I wish to inform you of the following facts:

"Yesterday, 4 December 1983, at 9.50 a.m., two high-speed launches of the Honduran navy attacked Nicaraguan coastguard vessel No. 282 in waters under Nicaraguan jurisdiction situated off Punta San José, in the department of Chinandega. In exercise of its right of self-defence the Nicaraguan coastguard vessel repelled the unwarranted attack, hitting one of the attacking launches with a missile.

"On the same day, at 2 p.m., two Honduran coastguard vessels attacked the Nicaraguan fishing boats COPESNICA Nos. 15 and 28 in waters under Nicaraguan jurisdiction situated 7 miles south of Cabo Gracias a Dios. As a result of the criminal attack, Freddy Ramírez, a Nicaraguan citizen, was wounded. COPESNICA No. 15 was damaged by gunfire from the Honduran coastguard vessels.

"Today, at 9.15 a.m., two Honduran high-speed launches and two Honduran coastguard vessels attacked two Nicaraguan fishing boats in national waters situated 2 kilometres east of Punta San José. At 9.30 a.m., three Honduran aircraft machine-gunned and fired rockets at the Nicaraguan vessels in support of the criminal attack. As a result of this aggression the Nicaraguan vessel Gonzalo Brenes was half sunk, having been hit by missiles fired by the aforesaid aircraft; its captain, Lorenzo García, was killed and the crew members Javier Ocampo, Teodoro Urbina, Roger Romero and José Martínez were seriously wounded. The attacking vessels and aircraft withdrew to Honduran territory at 10.02 a.m.

"These latest acts of aggression and flagrant violation of Nicaraguan sovereignty are further evidence of the total absence of any real desire for

peace on the part of the Honduran Government in spite of its repeated representations to that effect. Quite on the contrary, they seem to be part of specific plans of provocation designed to thwart the efforts being made to promote peace in the region.

"In protesting most formally and vigorously against the foregoing events, the Government of Nicaragua calls the attention of the Government of Honduras to the imperative need for it to bring its conduct into line with the fundamental principles of international law, especially as regards respect for the sovereignty and integrity of States, and, at the same time, urges the Honduran authorities to enter into real and specific commitments to promote peace in Central America, which is the objective most fervently desired by the Government of Nicaragua and the Central American peoples."

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

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