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LETTER DATED 4 MAY 1984 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 note of protest dated 3 May 1984, which was sent to His Excellency Mr. Carlos José Gutiérrez, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, by His Excellency Mr. Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua.

I should like to draw your attention to the fact that, while tremendous efforts are being made in Nicaragua to prevent the war of aggression which is being waged against my country from neighbouring territories from leading to a military conflagration of incalculable consequences for the region, and while we are engaged in a serious search for a just and lasting political solution to the military, economic and social crisis in Central America, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, His Excellency Mr. Carlos José Gutiérrez, has declared to the press that the only thing remaining to do with regard to Nicaragua is to sever diplomatic relations and that if that should become necessary they will do so.

It is also worthy of note, because it occurred at practically the same time that on the same day the Ambassador of the United States of America to Costa Rica, Mr. Curtis Winson, also made a public statement offering all the military assistance which that country might need to defend itself in the event of an invasion.

In spite of such developments and the increase in acts of armed aggression against my country, which now more often than not involve the use of the territory of Costa Rica, the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua hopes that the Government of Costa Rica will take the necessary steps to guarantee its professed active and permanent neutrality by effectively preventing the mercenaries of the Central Intelligence Agency from continuing to use its territory.

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

Annex

Letter dated 3 May 1984 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Nicaragua addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and
Worship of Costa Rica

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency of the following:

Between 9.45 a.m. and 10.00 a.m. today, 3 May 1984, Nicaraguan troops stationed at the Peñas Blancas border post heard 15 mortar shells fired, bursts of machine gun fire, various gun shots, and explosions of M-79 grenades in Costa Rican territory, when the Costa Rica rural guard staged an attack on itself, demonstrating the latter's complicity in the plans of the United States Government.

An investigation of the incident in fact revealed that members of the rural guard had fired the mortars, there being no indication that any of the fragments had landed in Nicaraguan territory. It should also be mentioned that Nicaraguan observation posts situated in the area reported that the shells landed on the same Costa Rican territory from which they had been fired, near the Sapoá River, 100 metres from the border with Nicaragua.

The Government of Nicaragua is surprised and concerned at such actions, which coincide with measures to evacuate Costa Rican customs and immigration installations, giving us every reason to assume that these are artificial incidents staged as part of the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) with the aim of accusing the Government of Nicaragua and provoking a further deterioration in the relations between the two States.

In view of the facts described above, the Government of Nicaragua addresses the strongest formal protest to the Government of Costa Rica at this serious provocation, which represents a desperate manoeuvre by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) aimed at justifying and legitimizing the United States military presence in Costa Rica and at ensuring that Costa Rica assumes the functions already assigned to the Government of Honduras as a base for aggression against Nicaragua. In this same connection, we are especially concerned at the fact that attempts are being made to cover up the United States military presence in Costa Rica by presenting the military personnel concerned as engineers. At the same time, the Government of Nicaragua points out that the timing of this self-imposed attack coincides with the debate now taking place in the United States Congress on the continuation of assistance to the Somoza mercenaries.

(Signed) Miguel D'ESCOTO BROCKMANN
Minister for Foreign Affairs
