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THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE  
AND SECURITY AND PEACE INITIATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-ninth year

Letter dated 13 January 1984 from the Permanent Representative of  
Honduras to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you, Sir, to transmit the text of the note dated 12 January 1984 from His Excellency Dr. Edgardo Paz Barnica, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras to His Excellency Mr. Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua. The text in question has been brought to the attention of the Organization of American States and reads as follows:

"Tegucigalpa, DC, 12 January 1984

His Excellency, Mr. Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Managua, Nicaragua

Sir:

I have the honour to write to you, Sir, to protest most strenuously against the grave act carried out by members of the Sandinist People's Army in violation of our national sovereignty and territorial integrity which resulted in a tragic loss of human life.

Yesterday, 11 January, at approximately 8 a.m., an unarmed OH58-type helicopter belonging to the army of the United States of America, carrying Chief Warrant Officer Jeffrey Schwab and two engineers, all citizens of the United States of America, was hit in Honduran territory by gun-fire coming from Nicaraguan territory. The aircraft was on a flight between the Honduran Departments of Valle and Olancho. In the attack from Nicaraguan territory, the helicopter was damaged by gun-fire and made a forced landing on the highway to Trojes, El Paraíso, in Honduran territory. The helicopter is situated approximately 3 kilometres from the village of Cifuentes in the same Department. After the damaged aircraft had landed and was already on the

ground, members of the Sandinist People's Army continued to fire on those on board; the pilot of the aircraft, Chief Warrant Officer Schwab was hit by a bullet and died instantly. The two passengers managed to flee from the site and were assisted by Honduran troops. This violation of Honduran territory is one in a series of hostile acts which the Government of Nicaragua has been carrying out in the border area with Honduras and reflects its sinister intention of undermining the peace efforts which are being successfully promoted as part of the initiative of the Contadora Group. The Government of Honduras wishes to make clear once again its firm resolve to seek through the diplomatic channel agreements which will make it possible to overcome the present crisis in the Central American region. At the same time it wishes to reaffirm its steadfast determination to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity against all acts of aggression.

In emphasizing the extreme gravity of the acts to which I have referred, I call upon you, Sir, to provide a satisfactory explanation for what has happened, and, at the same time, an assurance that the Government of Nicaragua will desist from its bellicose conduct and its repeated breaches of the inviolability of our territory, because they constitute a threat to regional peace and security.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Edgardo Paz Barnica, Minister for Foreign Affairs."

I should be grateful to you, Sir, if you would have the text of this note circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "The situation in Central America: threats to international peace and security and peace initiatives", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) H. Roberto HERRERA CACERES  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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