



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/39/82
S/16285
24 January 1984
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thirty-ninth session

THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:

THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND
SECURITY AND PEACE INITIATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL

Thirty-ninth year

Letter dated 20 January 1984 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Honduras to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the notes dated 16 and 19 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 notes in question contain a formal protest against the new acts of aggression which occurred on Saturday, 7 January, at the place known as Trincheras, where a peasant named Marcelino Valladares García was killed by fragments of a mine planted in Honduran territory by members of the Sandinist People's Army (see annex I), and on the following day, 8 January, when members of the Sandinist Army opened fire on the Eleventh Infantry Battalion post in the Palo Verde sector (see annex II).

I should be grateful if you would have the attached texts, which have been brought to the attention of the Organization of American States, 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) Roberto FLORES BERMÚDEZ
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

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ANNEX I

Note dated 19 January 1984 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua

I have the honour to inform you of the following:

According to an account provided by Sergeant Juan Pablo Midence Sosa, at 3 p.m. on Saturday, 7 January, at the place known as Trincheras, in the district of the village of Las Dificultades, Department of El Paraíso, a peasant named Marcelino Valladares García died of wounds caused by the fragments of a mine which had been placed 20 metres from the dividing line inside Honduran territory by members of the Sandinist People's Army. Mr. Valladares García was collecting firewood when he stepped on the mine and it exploded, killing him instantly. On the following day, 8 January, heavily armed members of the Sandinist People's Army penetrated approximately 1 kilometre into Honduran territory through the Sombrerito sector in the district of San Marcos de Colón. Reaching the farm owned by Mr. Carlos Ortez, they attempted to steal his cattle but succeeded in making off with only one animal.

These events offer further evidence of the aggressive attitude of the Sandinist Government, which has again violated Honduran territory, killed humble peasants and stolen their property. I wish to remind you that, last year also, a mine placed in our territory by the Sandinist Army killed two foreign journalists, an event which aroused the indignation of world public opinion. This time a peasant has died but, for us, the loss of his life is all the more important because he was a humble citizen. My Government hereby submits to the distinguished Government of Nicaragua its most vehement protest against acts such as those described above and calls upon it to cease its acts of aggression against the person and property of Honduran peasants, which only exacerbate the already tense relations between our countries.

(Signed) Edgardo PAZ BARNICA
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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ANNEX II

Note dated 16 January 1984 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua

I have the honour to inform you that last Sunday, 8 January, in the Palo Verde sector, district of the municipality of Concepción de María, Department of Choluteca, members of the Sandinist People's Army opened fire on the Eleventh Infantry Battalion post in that locality. Our troops were obliged to respond in an exchange of fire which lasted four and a half hours. There were no casualties in the armed forces.

My Government vigorously protests against this new act of aggression committed by the Sandinist People's Army and, through you, sincerely urges the competent authorities of the Government of Nicaragua to order an investigation into the events cited above and to desist from any repetition of acts of this kind.

(Signed) Edgardo PAZ BARNICA
Minister for Foreign Affairs
