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LETTER DATED 10 MAY 1984 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
COSTA RICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of two notes dated 9 May from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, Carlos José Gutiérrez, addressed to Mr. Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, with a request that they be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

I

"I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your cable message dated 3 May, in which you submit to the Government of Costa Rica the protest of the Government of Nicaragua at the events which occurred on that day, between 9.50 a.m. and 10 a.m., at the frontier post of Peñas Blancas. According to the version of the Nicaraguan authorities, 'the Costa Rica rural guard staged an attack on itself, demonstrating the latter's complicity in the plans of the United States Government'.

After an investigation by the Costa Rican authorities of the facts mentioned, it has been duly established that the attack was carried out by members of the Sandinist People's Army, who fired on the frontier post of Peñas Blancas for twelve minutes.

In view of the foregoing, the Government of Costa Rica rejects the protest submitted by the distinguished Government of Nicaragua in the above-mentioned message.

Carlos José GUTIERREZ
Minister for Foreign Affairs"

II

"I have the honour to refer once again to the serious events which occurred on 3 May 1984, when members of the Sandinist People's Army attacked the frontier post of Peñas Blancas with mortar fire, machine-guns and rifles, hitting the immigration and customs installations and seriously endangering the lives of the Costa Ricans who were there at the time.

The Government of Costa Rica regrets that the report on these events which was given to Your Excellency by the Nicaraguan authorities and which you used to make the assertions contained in your message of 3 May was a base distortion of the facts.

It is shocking that the Nicaraguan authorities should be unjustly accusing the Government of Costa Rica of lending itself to a 'manoeuvre by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) aimed at justifying and legitimizing the United States military presence in Costa Rica'.

In order to dispel any doubt which some unbeliever might have about Costa Rica's position with regard to the presence of United States engineers in the northern zone, I must inform Your Excellency that the President of the Republic himself, Mr. Luis Alberto Monge, has repeatedly stated that he prefers to delay the development of that important productive zone of Costa Rica rather than give rise to suspicions such as those which Your Excellency expresses in your note and which tend to confuse public opinion, since Costa Rica is depicted as a country that lends its territory for attacks, instead of as a country under attack, as it in fact has been from the Sandinist People's Army, and thus undermine the neutrality proclaimed and practised by the Government of Costa Rica in the face of Nicaragua's internal conflict.

In view of the foregoing, the Government of Costa Rica submits its most forceful protest at this new act of aggression by the Sandinist People's Army (another of those which the Costa Rican people and Government have been patiently suffering) and at the assertions made by Your Excellency in your message and based, as I said earlier, on a report by the Nicaraguan authorities which is unfounded and completely devoid of truth.

Carlos José GUTIERREZ
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship
of Costa Rica"

Accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Fernando ZUMBADO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
