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LETTER DATED 5 JULY 1989 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PANAMA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I wish to register with you and with the international community a vehement denunciation of the series of acts of provocation and military intimidation carried out by troops of the United States of America in sovereign territory of the Republic of Panama during the last few days.

On Saturday, 1 July, United States troops, supported by armoured carriers and helicopter gunships, entered the area surrounding the town of Gamboa, which has reverted to Panama and in which many Panamanians are residing and personnel of the Defence Forces of the Republic of Panama are deployed. The irresponsible and provocative attitude of the foreign troops could have caused a confrontation, with serious consequences for the civilian population and for peace in the country, but this was averted thanks to the calm and collected attitude of the Defence Forces of Panama.

On Sunday, 2 July, another contingent of United States troops, equipped with sophisticated weapons, surrounded and entered the water-intake installations of the Institute of National Aqueducts and Drainage Systems (IDAAN) on Lake Alajuela and the installations of the Chilibre water-purification plant, which serves the cities of Panama and Colón. These actions were accompanied by threats and intimidation of the personnel working at the plant and the residents of the area. The latter incident is of greater gravity, since the IDAAN purification plant has no connection with the operation or protection of the Canal and is situated in an area that has always been under exclusive Panamanian jurisdiction.

We denounce these acts as grave violations of the Panama Canal Treaties of 1977 and as a flagrant breach of the rules of international law set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Organization of American States and upholding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Panamanian nation. These actions, involving a show of force and military arrogance, endanger the security of the Panamanian nation, and we denounce them as further steps in the plans of the Government of the United States to intervene militarily in Panama and to impose by force its schemes for supreme domination.

It will not escape your attention that these military provocations by United States troops in my country also pose a threat to international peace and security,

S/20719  
English  
Page 2

and we therefore hold the United States responsible for such a breach in the region arising from its aggressive acts against Panama.

The Government and people of Panama reaffirm their steadfast position in demanding from the United States of America faithful and strict compliance with the Panama Canal Treaties and respect for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Panama. No act of intimidation, no military provocation, no threat of invasion shall make us abandon this commitment.

I request you to have this letter brought urgently to the attention of the members of the Security Council and to have it distributed to all States Members of the United Nations as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Leonardo A. KAM  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative