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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS
IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL
AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Note verbale dated 24 February 1984 from the Permanent Representative
of Nicaragua to the United Nations Office at Geneva, addressed to the
Secretary-General of the United Nations

The Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations Office at Geneva requests the Secretary-General to circulate this communication, together with the annex thereto, under item 12 of the agenda for the present session of the Commission on Human Rights.

ANNEX

During my trip to Central America I visited in Honduras the Salvadorian refugee camps and the Miskito camps near the frontiers with Nicaragua.

On 7 January I travelled with a commission composed of Father Luis Perez Aguirrez from Uruguay, adviser to SERPAJ - Latin America, and Mr. Claudio Lozano, official of the Department of Human Rights.

SERPAJ - Argentina was represented by Bishop John Wilson - in charge of the Central American Region for the Moravian-Miskito Church - and cameramen Gustavo Bonifacini and Tristan Bower of SERPAJ - Argentina. We were accompanied by Colonel Garcia Tursen, whom the Government of Honduras has put in charge of refugees.

The events which ask the Governments of Honduras and Nicaragua to clarify occurred as follows:

1. We travelled by helicopter from Tegucigalpa to the Miskito refugee camp in Mocoron, where we landed at approximately 9.30 a.m.
2. When we arrived the members of international organizations and of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees mistook us for a mission which was coming to investigate the events which had occurred the previous day, 6 January; according to a report transmitted by radio, approximately 200 males had been massacred and the remaining persons had scattered in the jungle; also according to this report, a group of approximately 600 Miskito Indians had been intercepted by Honduran troops when trying to return to Nicaragua.
3. According to what the representatives of the international organizations told us in Mocoron, the information had reached them because the army transmitter was damaged and could not communicate directly with Tegucigalpa, and they had been asked by the troops to transmit the information.
4. At approximately midday, the second in command, Colonel Balderrama, came to the camp and told us that the Commander of the military zone was not there because he had had to go to the scene of the events. Colonel Balderrama tried to play down what had happened by saying that there had not been all that many deaths and that most of the people had hidden in the jungle, and said that the report which had been passed on was confused.
5. We conveyed our concern to the Government of Honduras orally, expecting a clarification.
6. Later, during the journey to Panama, I talked to the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, Father Miguel d'Escoto and laid the problem before him, asking him to do everything in his power to verify the report.
7. Since we have received no information whatever on the subject to date, we consider it our obligation to draw attention to the matter and request the Governments and international organizations to take the necessary steps to investigate the events and to prevent any recurrence of similar incidents.

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8. We propose the establishment of a corridor under the protection of UNHCR to guarantee the movement of Miskitos between Nicaragua and Honduras and to ensure their physical safety.

We wish in this way to contribute to respect for individuals and peoples and to the solution of the conflicts between brother peoples such as those of Nicaragua and Honduras.

This is a summary of the facts as we know them, and we would be grateful for whatever you can do to clarify them and resolve the matter.

Fraternal greetings

Peace and well-being

Adolfo Perez Esquivel
Winner of the
Nobel Peace Prize, 1980