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Item 25 of the preliminary list\*  
THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:  
THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE  
AND SECURITY AND PEACE INITIATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-ninth year

Letter dated 11 May 1984 from the Permanent Representative  
of Honduras to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to my notes dated 9 and 10 May 1984, which were circulated as documents of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/39/240 and S/16546; A/39/253-S/16551), concerning the tragic death of eight Honduran compatriots who were travelling in an unarmed helicopter of the Honduran Air Force which was shot down by the Sandinist Army.

On this occasion and on instructions from my Government, I wish to bring to your attention the letter which the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras, Dr. Edgardo Paz Barnica, sent today to the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Nicaragua in Honduras, Mr. Edwin Zablah del Carmen, declaring him persona non grata.

This decision by the Government of my country stems from the deep indignation caused both by this unjustifiable attack and by the subsequent attitudes of the Government of Nicaragua, which, instead of offering the explanations and apologies due between States maintaining peaceful relations, called the act heroic, decorated the person who committed it and also refused the request of the Government of Honduras that a national commission should visit the site of the event.

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I should be most grateful if you would have this note and the annexed text circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 25 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) H. Roberto HERRERA CACERES  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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Annex

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF HONDURAS  
ADDRESSED TO THE AMBASSADOR OF NICARAGUA IN HONDURAS

Tegucigalpa, D.C., 11 May 1984

Sir,

The Government of Honduras has patiently maintained a demeanour of prudent serenity and calmness in the face of the escalation of acts of material and moral aggression which your Government has intensified against my country.

Honduran unshakeable patience has been our sacrificial tribute on the altars of the maintenance of regional peace and a profession of faith in the peace-making effort of the Contadora Group.

The most recent expression of the escalation of acts of aggression and provocation against Honduras was the downing in the Gulf of Fonseca, on 8 May 1984, of the unarmed helicopter, clearly identified as belonging to the Honduran Air Force, which was making a routine flight of an administrative character, carrying eight persons, both crew and civilian passengers, all of whom perished as a direct consequence of the act of barbarism committed by the Sandinist Regular Army, which can be compared only to the most heinous crimes against humanity recorded by history.

In response to the correct Honduran request for authorization for a national commission to visit the site of the incident, in order to recover and repatriate the bodies of the dead and thus verify and confirm such a heinous act, the Sandinist Government suspiciously refused such authorization, alleging that the exact spot where the helicopter had fallen had not yet been detected but that they had identified one of the bodies and the manufacturer's registration number of the helicopter.

In spite of the great indignation caused in Honduras by the unjustified Sandinist attack against the Honduran helicopter, my Government entertained the hope that the Sandinist Government, showing a minimum of international responsibility, would set on foot a scrupulous investigation of the crime, imposing the appropriate sanctions on the culprits and offering compensation to the families of the victims and to the Government of Honduras.

His Excellency  
Edwin Zablah del Carmen  
Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary of Nicaragua

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On the contrary, the Government of Nicaragua, apparently caught up in a fit of bellicose hysteria, has gone to inconceivable extremes of disregard for human life and outrage to Honduran sensibilities by calling the criminal act of the Sandinist Army against the Honduran helicopter "heroic" and decorating the one instrumentally and immediately guilty of a crime of lèse-humanité.

My Government hereby declares you persona non grata, as an unequivocal expression of the deep indignation felt by the State of Honduras, which awaits the apologies called for by the gravity of the case and which urges you to leave the territory of the Republic within 48 hours.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Edgardo PAZ BARNICA  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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