

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL
E/CN.4/1362
12 March 1979
ENGLISH
Original: SPANISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Thirty-fifth session
Agenda item 12

Note verbal dated 12 March 1979 addressed to the Chairman of the
thirty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights by the
Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the
United Nations Office at Geneva

The Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations Office at Geneva presents its respects to the Chairman of the thirty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights and has the honour to enclose a copy of the official bulletin issued by the Government of the Republic of Guatemala on 25 January 1979 concerning the terrible crime committed against Dr. Alberto Fuentes Mohr, former Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister of the Treasury and Public Credit. It also requests that this document should be regarded as an official document of the Commission.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA CONCERNING
THE RECENT BLOODY EVENTS

The Government of Guatemala informs Guatemalans that in the past few days citizens have been shocked by a series of violent acts which have caused grief and anguish in many Guatemalan homes.

These deeds were committed by persons or groups acting in a criminal fashion and outside the law, and this is why the Government, as is its duty, has done and is doing everything within its power to bring about the apprehension of the offenders and to place them at the disposal of the courts so that the law can be applied with all due severity.

Among the recent violent acts, the Government of the Republic regrets the recent assassination of three members of the military police, namely Julio Roberto Hernández, Porfirio Ipec Garza and Manuel María Gómez Ramos, which took place at the San Francisco farm in San Juan Cotzél, El Quiché administrative district, as well as the assassination of Enrique Brol Galicia, a well-known farmer, and that of Mr. Manuel Moscoso Saldaña reported yesterday in this capital - a criminal act in which Mrs. Gladys Castillo de Moscoso, his wife, was also seriously wounded.

Today, at 1.15 p.m., Dr. Alberto Fuentes Mohr, a deputy of the Congress of the Republic was foully assassinated as he was driving his car along the Avenida La Reforma in this city.

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These tragic events have been used, regardless of the grief and suffering caused in Guatemalan homes, to create an atmosphere of tension that hampers normal and constructive activities in various spheres of national life.

In view of the regrettable events described above, the Government of the Republic declares:

1. That it energetically repudiates the violent acts of the past few days committed by persons or criminal groups acting outside the law.
 2. That, within its field of competence, it has acted and will continue to act with all the diligence required of it by circumstances to apprehend those responsible and to throw light on the crimes referred to.
 3. Reiterates once again its unswerving resolve to explore all legal courses of action at its disposal to bring about social peace among Guatemalans, using dialogue as the best means of attaining this objective.
 4. Lastly, expresses its condemnation and repudiation of the unspeakable crime committed against the person of Fuentes Mohr, a member of Congress, and expresses its deep sympathies to the Congress of the Republic as well as to the distinguished family of the assassinated deputy, and at the same time condemns and repudiates the other crimes referred to above.
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