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LETTER DATED 4 SEPTEMBER 1984 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF NICARAGUA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the note dated 2 September 1984 which was cabled to His Excellency Mr. George P. Shultz, Secretary of State of the United States of America, by His Excellency Mr. José León Talavera, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua. I should be grateful if you would have it circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Julio ICAZA GALLARD
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter dated 2 September 1984 from the Nicaraguan Acting Minister
for Foreign Affairs addressed to the Secretary of State of the
United States of America

I have the honour to report to you the following facts:

At 1420 hours yesterday, 1 September, the Sandinist anti-aircraft defence forces shot down a military helicopter armed with artillery which was participating in a raid on the Santa Clara patriotic military service school, in the department of Nueva Segovia. During the raid, the helicopter operated in conjunction with three "push and pull" planes flying in tactical combat formation; between 12 and 16 rockets were fired in the sector. As a result of this criminal aggression, four children and one adult died, and two members of the kitchen staff at the military school were wounded. The Sandinist People's Army suffered no casualties as a result of the raids.

So far, the bodies of two members of the helicopter's crew have been found. On one of the bodies, there were air navigation maps with two flight plans. The first was for a flight from the "El Aguacate" base, built by the United States army in Honduran territory, to "Las Vegas"; the second was for a flight from "Toncontín" to "Jamastrán", and from that base, also built by the United States, to Santa Clara in Nicaraguan territory.

With these actions, the policy of State terrorism pursued by the United States Government has added new civilian victims to the hundreds of Nicaraguans murdered as a result of the war of aggression waged by the United States Government against Nicaragua.

These developments also offer further evidence of the escalation of aggressive acts by your Government against my country, including the use of Honduran territory as a springboard for aggression against Nicaragua, irrefutable proof of which was provided by the flight plan found on the body of one of the mercenaries in the service of your Government.

The widespread use of aircraft supplied by the Central Intelligence Agency to mercenary groups represents a new high in the intensification of the overt war being waged by the United States Government against my country, in a direct attack on the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Nicaragua. The carrying out of any type of military or paramilitary activity against Nicaragua marks a radical breach by the United States Government of the undertakings freely entered into under the United Nations Charter and constitutes a flagrant violation of the duty of States to abide by the decisions of the International Court of Justice, in this case the Order of 10 May 1984 (S/16564).

The Government of Nicaragua has repeatedly denounced the provision by the United States Government of aircraft and heavy armaments to mercenary groups, among other occasions, when a Douglas DC-3C was shot down on 3 October 1983 and when a

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C-47 was shot down on 27 August - both planes supplied to the mercenaries by the Central Intelligence Agency and referred to in the respective protest notes dated 5 October 1983 (S/16024) and 29 August 1984 (S/16728).

These acts again show that the United States Government is still not serious about the process of dialogue with Nicaragua, which is the only responsible way to find peaceful solutions to the problems now facing the region. On the contrary, such aggressive actions appear to be yet another confirmation that there is within the United States Government no real desire to abandon the military approach in favour of the mechanisms of understanding and negotiation as means of overcoming differences. Similarly, such actions suggest that your Government's motives in embarking on a process of dialogue with Nicaragua have more to do with a publicity campaign to improve your image among the voters than with a genuine readiness to lay the foundation for true regional coexistence.

In protesting in the most formal and forceful terms against this new criminal act, which violates international law and the mandate embodied in the Order of the International Court of Justice of 10 May 1984, the Government of Nicaragua again urges the United States Administration to abandon the military approach as a means of settling disputes. At the same time, it calls on the United States to take a responsible attitude towards the process of dialogue with Nicaragua. To that end, the United States must adhere strictly and scrupulously to the underlying principles of coexistence between States, specifically by immediately and permanently ceasing acts of intervention and aggression against Nicaragua and by ceasing to use the territory of neighbouring countries as bases for aggression against my country. It should be noted that the cessation of such activities would permit further progress in the peace negotiations under the auspices of the Contadora Group.

(Signed) José León TALAVERA
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs
