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LETTER DATED 22 AUGUST 1989 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
PANAMA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose the text of the resolution in which the Plenary Meeting of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Republic of Panama registers its strong protest at the military occupation to which the Municipal Circuit Courts and the Maritime Tribunal in Ancón Magistrate's District, District of Panama, were subjected by troops of the Southern Command of the United States Army.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Leonardo A. KAM B.
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Resolution No. 1

The Supreme Court of Justice of the Republic of Panama, meeting in Plenary Session at Panama City this seventeenth day of August one thousand nine hundred and eighty-nine,

Considering:

FIRST: That members of the Southern Command of the United States Army subjected to military occupation for more than three hours the premises occupied by the Municipal Circuit Courts and the Maritime Tribunal in Ancón Magistrate's District, District of Panama, Republic of Panama, thus preventing the free administration of justice in these institutions,

SECOND: That this situation caused resulting alarm, nervousness, panic and indignation not only among the officials working in these premises, but also among the lawyers present in Court,

THIRD: That this situation was brought to the attention of the Presiding Judge of the Court, which at a previous Plenary Session analysed the situation involving prevention of the free administration of justice and decided to visit the scene of the intrusion and verify the accuracy of the facts adduced, namely the presence of light tanks and soldiers in combat gear within the physical precincts of the Courts,

FOURTH: That these facts constitute a serious violation of national sovereignty and of the Panama Canal Treaties and impede the administration of justice,

RESOLVES:

FIRST: To condemn what has occurred and register our strongest protest against the arrogant attitude of the United States Army in intruding upon the institutions and sovereign territory of the Republic of Panama,

SECOND: Respectfully to request the Executive Branch to communicate to the international organizations, through the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Panama's protest at this further outrage perpetrated against the administration of justice and the legal profession of the Republic of Panama,

THIRD: To denounce to the judicial bodies of the world the aggression and outrage perpetrated against the judicial authorities and the administration of justice of the Republic of Panama by the United States Army,

FOURTH: To bring what has occurred to the attention of the Panamanian representatives in the bilateral mechanisms for the implementation of the Panama Canal Treaty with a view to obtaining a guarantee that there will be no repetition of actions of this kind.

Done at Panama City this seventeenth day of August one thousand nine hundred and eighty-nine.

The Supreme Court of Justice, meeting in Plenary Session

Marisol M. REYES DE VASQUEZ

Isidro VEGA PARRIOS

Jerry Wilson NAVARRO

Dilio ARCIA T.

Manuel José CALVO

Rafael A. DOMINGUEZ

Gustavo ESCOBAR PEREIRA

Rodrigo MOLINA A.

Enrique PERNABE PEREZ

Dr. José Guillermo BROCE
Secretary-General

