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LETTER DATED 15 MAY 1985 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
HONDURAS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a press release issued today by the Government of the Republic of Honduras concerning the deterioration of the situation in the area bordering on Nicaragua.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the press release, the contents of which have already been brought to the attention of the Organization of American States, to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) H. Roberto HERRERA CACERES
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Press release

15 May 1985

At a meeting today, the National Security Council was briefed on the situation created in the border area between Honduras and Nicaragua, which has been deteriorating in recent weeks. On 10 May, Honduran territory was the target of serious acts of aggression by the army of the Nicaraguan Government. At 11 a.m. on that day, at Arenales, four Hondurans were wounded and one killed, all five members of the Honduran Armed Forces, as a result of attacks by the army of Nicaragua.

On that same day, 10 May, the Government of Honduras, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, wrote to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, protesting in the most forceful terms against the aforementioned act of aggression and stating that such acts served only to create a climate of increased tension, placing obstacles in the way of efforts to bring peace to Central America, which the Government of Honduras has been fostering since 1982, as evidenced by its firm support for the Contadora Group.

On 11 May, Nicaragua's Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Víctor Hugo Tinoco, replied to the note of protest sent by the Government of Honduras, making extremely subtle insinuations against our Government and Armed Forces, asserting that his Government was unable to determine whether the Honduran soldiers killed in the above-mentioned incident "might have been injured as a result of combat which occurred in Nicaraguan territory, in the border areas, and later moved to Honduras, ...".

As can be appreciated, the charge levelled by the Government of Nicaragua is extremely serious in that it alleges involvement by the Armed Forces of Honduras in incidents in which they had no part. On the contrary, our Armed Forces, in accordance with orders issued by the President of the Republic, has proceeded to step up security operations in the area bordering on Nicaragua in order to deal with such situations and to control groups of Nicaraguans who enter the country seeking to escape from the situation of violence and armed conflict which exists inside Nicaragua.

Furthermore, also in accordance with orders issued by the President of the Republic, the Government has made arrangements for an inter-agency operation involving the Armed Forces and other public bodies, as agreed in the National Security Council, which has already begun the work of rehabilitating the area with a view to instilling the necessary confidence in the Honduran population which is the victim of the situation of conflict prevailing in Nicaragua and which affects the area in question. Many Hondurans have been displaced from the area owing to the conditions described above.

As has been stated, the havoc created in the border area is the result of domestic political and armed conflict in Nicaragua, which is not confined within its national borders but spills over into neighbouring countries. Faced with that

situation, the Government of Honduras, in exercise of its sovereign powers, is asserting its control over the part of Honduran territory in question by not permitting the existence of armed groups and by observing the principle of non-intervention.

The Government of Honduras, through the National Security Council, reiterates its determination to enforce its laws against all aliens who, abusing our country's hospitality, violate them.

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND PRESS
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

