



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/39/901
16 May 1985
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Thirty-ninth session
Agenda item 25

THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL
PEACE AND SECURITY AND PEACE INITIATIVES

Letter dated 15 May 1985 from the Permanent Representative
of Honduras to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the press communiqué issued today by the Government of the Republic of Honduras concerning the deterioration of the situation in the border area with Nicaragua.

I should be grateful if you would have this text, the contents of which have already been brought to the attention of the Organization of American States, circulated as a document of the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 25.

(Signed) Roberto HERRERA CACERES
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Press communiqué dated 15 May 1985 issued by the
Government of the Republic of Honduras

The National Security Council met today to consider the situation existing in the border area between Honduras and Nicaragua, which has deteriorated in recent weeks. On 10 May, in fact, Honduran territory was the object of serious acts of aggression by the army of the Nicaraguan Government. At 11 a.m. on that day, at Arenales, four Hondurans belonging to the Honduran armed forces were injured and another killed as a result of attacks carried out by the Nicaraguan army.

The Government of Honduras, through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, sent a note to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua on 10 May vigorously protesting against the aforementioned act of aggression and pointing out that such actions simply create a climate of increased tension which obstructs any effort in favour of peace for Central America. The Government of Honduras has been working for such a peace since 1982, as can be seen from its firm support for the Contadora process.

On 11 May, in replying to the protest note from the Government of Honduras, the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, Mr. Victor Hugo Tinoco made veiled accusations against our Government and armed forces, stating 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 ...".

Clearly, the Nicaraguan Government's accusation is extremely serious, for it implicates the Honduran armed forces in events in which they have absolutely no part. On the contrary, on instructions from the President of the Republic, our armed forces have stepped up their vigilance in the border area with Nicaragua in an effort to deal with situations such as those complained of and to keep track in the area of those groups of Nicaraguans who are fleeing their country to escape the situation of violence and armed conflict that exists in Nicaragua.

Furthermore, also on instructions from the President of the Republic, the Government has provided, through a joint initiative between the armed forces and other public sector bodies and as agreed by the National Security Council, for rehabilitation work to commence forthwith in the affected areas, in order to instil the necessary confidence in the Honduran population which is the victim of the conflict situation in Nicaragua, the effects of which are being felt in that area. A considerable number of Hondurans have in fact had to leave the area for the reasons indicated.

The situation of upheaval in this border area is, as we have said, the result of the internal political and armed conflict in Nicaragua which is not confined to the strictly national sphere but has spilled over into neighbouring countries. Faced with this situation, the Government of Honduras, in exercise of its sovereign

powers, is supervising that part of the border area which lies within Honduran territory, prohibiting the existence of armed groups and respecting the principle of non-intervention.

The Government of Honduras, through the National Security Council, reiterates its determination to apply the corresponding laws to all those foreigners who abuse the hospitality of our country and infringe those laws.
