



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/39/927

S/17327

5 July 1985

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Thirty-ninth session  
Agenda item 25

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Fortieth year

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

Letter dated 5 July 1985 from the Permanent Representative  
of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the note of protest dated 3 July 1985 from Her Excellency Nora Astorga, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua, addressed to His Excellency Mr. Carlos José Gutiérrez, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as an official document of the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 25, and of the Security Council.

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

ANNEX

Note of protest dated 3 July 1985 from the Acting Minister  
for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua addressed to the Minister  
for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica

I am writing in reference to the serious events described below:

Through various news media, the Government of Nicaragua has learnt of the capture in Costa Rica of the mercenaries Robert Thomson and Steve Carr, of United States nationality, Peter Gliberry and John Davis, of British nationality, and Claude Chaffard, of French nationality, who were captured on 25 April 1985 in Costa Rican territory, where they were collaborating actively with the mercenary military organizations in the service of the Government of the United States.

According to the statements disseminated by the international news agencies, the mercenaries confirmed that the authorities of the Civil Guard of Costa Rica gave them "precise information, with maps and sketches, on the location of the guard posts, the routes followed by the Nicaraguan patrols and the roads to be taken in order to avoid them and achieve a surprise effect". Similarly, the mercenaries stressed "the tacit and sometimes active collaboration of the security forces".

In their statements, the mercenaries affirmed that they received active collaboration from the Costa Rican Civil Guard in order to carry out the attack on the La Penca Nicaraguan frontier post. According to these same reports, a colonel in the Civil Guard showed them on a map the access and retreat roads and provided them with small trucks for transportation. The mercenary Steve Carr said that one of the Civil Guards was used as a guide for the attack.

The mercenary Claude Chaffard, who was training military groups at camps set up in Costa Rica, a few kilometres from the frontier with Nicaragua, states that on his return to Costa Rican territory the customs authorities "did not react when they saw that the luggage contained military clothing and objects". This same mercenary states that, during the journey which they made to counter-revolutionary camps located in the north of Costa Rica, they were accompanied by a major from the Civil Guard and adds that "For almost two months, they received friendly visits almost every day from members of the Civil Guard in the region, who promised them their protection".

The Government of Nicaragua lodges its most formal and strong protest at the serious facts reported in the statements of the captured mercenaries, which not only belie the Costa Rican proclamation of neutrality but also constitute a flagrant violation of the norms and principles freely accepted by the Government of Costa Rica in the Charters of the United Nations and of the Organization of American States and in other international instruments.

In view of these statements demonstrating the Costa Rican authorities' activities of open support for the irregular forces attacking Nicaraguan territory, the Government of Nicaragua once again urges the distinguished Government of Costa Rica to enact strict measures of control over its territory in order to prevent the

commission of deeds such as those described by the captured mercenaries. In addition, Nicaragua urges reflection upon the Government of Costa Rica so that efforts may be made, with the assistance of the Contadora countries and of the Government of France, to find ways of achieving lasting solutions to the frontier tensions prompted by interests alien to the legitimate desire for peace that has historically been shared by the peoples of Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

Nora ASTORGA  
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs

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