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

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fortieth year

Letter dated 22 July 1985 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you in order to transmit a copy of the communication dated 17 July 1985 which was delivered to the Government of Nicaragua by Mr. Harry Bergold, Ambassador of the United States of America in Managua (see annex I). I am also attaching a copy of the note verbale dated 18 July 1985 by which the Government of Nicaragua replied to the communication (see annex II).

The serious accusations and threats in the communication of the United States Embassy in Managua are clear evidence of the State terrorism practised by the current United States Administration against Nicaragua and the decision of the United States Government to strike and intervene militarily against our country on the basis of pretexts as absurd and outlandish as those to be found in the aforementioned official communication. In the context of other acts of aggression and steps to block the regional peace initiatives, these new and unfounded accusations and threats of the United States Government against my country amount to an extremely grave situation and a serious endangerment of international peace and security.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the present note and its annexes to be circulated as a 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 1

Communication dated 17 July 1985 delivered to the Government of
Nicaragua by the Ambassador of the United States of America
in Managua

Citizens of the United States and of our friends and allies increasingly have been the targets of international terrorist activity. The patience of the United States Government and of the American people has grown short.

A recurrence of any incident such as the brutal murder of six United States citizens in El Salvador on 19 June 1985, will have serious repercussions. In the case of El Salvador, we and the Government of El Salvador have reacted strongly against the PRTC. We are well aware of Nicaraguan Government support for and influence with the PRTC and other elements of the FMLN. The Nicaraguan Government should use its influence to discourage attacks against United States personnel, personnel who are not, as they know, involved in combat.

We now have indications that preparations are under way to introduce a program of terrorist attacks against United States personnel in Honduras.

We are aware that the Government of Nicaragua supports those involved in these preparations and we believe that the Government of Nicaragua may be directly involved.

We consider it of utmost importance that the Government of Nicaragua clearly and fully understand that any Nicaraguan-supported terrorism attacks against United States personnel in Honduras would be viewed as the direct responsibility of the Government of Nicaragua, and that the United States should be expected to react accordingly.

It should be understood also that while this warning is addressed to possible acts of terrorism against United States citizens in Honduras because of specific available intelligence, United States reaction to terrorist acts in other countries of Central America, or elsewhere, will be based upon the same principles. A repetition anywhere in Central America of the 19 June murders of United States citizens in El Salvador will have serious consequences for the perpetrators and for those who assist them.

ANNEX II

Note verbale dated 18 July 1985 by which the Government of
Nicaragua replied to the communication dated 17 July 1985
of the Embassy of the United States of America in Managua

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua is writing to the Government of the United States of America in order to state the following:

Yesterday, 17 July, in the afternoon, the Ambassador of the United States of America to Nicaragua, Mr. Harry Bergold, delivered a communication to the Government of Nicaragua containing very serious threats against our country.

Nicaragua categorically rejects the content and form of that communication, which contains false accusations and intolerable threats and represents a breach of the practice and law prevailing in relations between States.

Nicaragua wishes first to confirm its strong and total condemnation of all forms of terrorism, particularly State terrorism of the kind which the United States Administration sponsors and finances against our country.

This policy of State terrorism has claimed a total of 12,146 victims in Nicaragua, including dead, injured and abducted persons, and has left more than 7,500 children orphans. It may be recalled that the methods and actions employed in this policy of State terrorism against Nicaragua include:

- (a) The mining of Nicaraguan ports;
- (b) The attack against fuel storage facilities at the port of Corinto, which rendered necessary the general evacuation of the population of that port;
- (c) The systematic murder and abduction of peasants, elderly persons, women and children by mercenary bands financed by the United States Government;
- (d) The criminal assault on a passenger aircraft belonging to Aerolíneas Nicaragüenses in Mexico;
- (e) The explosion in the baggage claim area of Sandino Airport, which caused the death of four airport workers;
- (f) The manual entitled "Psychological operations in guerrilla warfare" produced by the Central Intelligence Agency, which is a guide and an apology for terrorism.

It should be stated in this connection that communications such as the one transmitted yesterday by Ambassador Bergold to the Government of Nicaragua are in themselves evidence of political State terrorism.

The Government of Nicaragua is not and never has been involved in any type of action contrary to the norms and principles of international law. The Sandinist Front itself, in its long struggle against dictatorship, never resorted to terrorist methods.

Nicaragua rejects all responsibility for the events which took place on 19 June at San Salvador and will not accept responsibility in any similar situation that may arise in El Salvador or another country. It neither perpetrates nor encourages that type of action.

The absurd attempt by the United States to hold Nicaragua responsible for future acts of violence and terror that either United States diplomatic personnel or citizens may endure in Central America or elsewhere can only be understood in the context of the United States decision to fabricate the necessary pretext, as in the case of the Gulf of Tonkin, as a means of creating conditions to justify direct military aggression against the Nicaraguan people. No other interpretation can be given to the illogical and illegal threat to take reprisals against Nicaragua for possible actions whose nature and origin will be determined by the United States Government itself.

This new threat is made in the context of previous acts of aggression against Nicaragua, such as the trade embargo, the approval of new funds for mercenary forces and the adoption of the Foley amendment, which embodies the necessary pretext for direct aggression against Nicaragua.

As the threats to the security of United States citizens in other countries of the region are the result of the United States Government's policies towards the Central American crisis, it would behove that Government to take a responsible attitude by not stepping up its dangerous threats against a small nation like Nicaragua and, instead, sincerely engaging in the current peace efforts, in particular by ending the boycott of the Contadora negotiating process and agreeing to resume the Manzanillo talks, which were unilaterally suspended in January of this year.

Should the policy of threats of further and more serious acts of aggression against the region, and against Nicaragua in particular, persist, this could only lead to a worsening of the situation and heightened security risks for all the parties involved.

Moreover, Nicaragua considers that if the United States Administration has convincing proof of the alleged Nicaraguan support to terrorist organizations, then the International Court of Justice has full competence to hear those accusations. Nicaragua calls on the United States to submit its complaints to the supreme world tribunal either within the framework of the case currently before the Court, or separately in a new application to the Court to be filed by the United States Government.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterates to the Government of the United States the assurances of its highest consideration.

