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

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fortieth year

Letter dated 5 August 1985 from the Permanent Representative
of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the letter dated 31 July 1985 from the President of Costa Rica, Mr. Luis Alberto Monge, addressed to the President of Nicaragua, Commandante Daniel Ortega (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter 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) Fernando BERROCAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 31 July 1985 from the President of Costa Rica
addressed to the President of Nicaragua

In view of the events which occurred on 26 July, near Barra del Colorado and Agua Dulce, in the extreme north-Atlantic region of our country, when Nicaraguan aircraft penetrated Costa Rican territory and launched projectiles without regard for the sovereignty of our country, I wish to express to you our feelings of deepest indignation at the repeated attempts by your Government to carry into the territory of Costa Rica the Nicaraguan military activities aimed at ending the civil war going on in Nicaragua. I wish to lodge an equally strong protest against the statement attributed to you to the effect that the aircraft which violated the territory of Costa Rica on that occasion came from our own land. That statement is false, as you know, and consequently can be explained only by a desire to conceal the aggression and deny our neutrality and devotion to peace by attributing to the Government which I represent aggressive intentions vis-à-vis Nicaragua which do not and could not exist.

Both the violation of our airspace and the attempt to conceal it must be added to the long list of attacks on Costa Rica by the Nicaraguan military forces. Consequently, the statements frequently made by high officials of your Government to the effect that our persistent and steadfast defence of our national sovereignty is the result of pressure by other States are out of place and constitute an offence against the national dignity of Costa Rica.

You state that Costa Rica has been pressured to break off relations with Nicaragua, but I state categorically that we have not been subjected to any pressure and would not accept it. Nevertheless, statements of this kind will not prevent Costa Rica from taking the decisions necessary in order to defend its national sovereignty and dignity.

We interpret the statements you have made today as a threat of war against our country. The world should take note that a nation which unilaterally demilitarized itself 36 years ago, which has no army, which has never attacked a neighbouring country and which has declared to the world its devotion to peace is being threatened with war. Consequently, I call upon you to make an effort to ensure that our two peoples may maintain their traditional cordial friendly relations and that Costa Rica may persist unswervingly in its desire to live in peace with neighbouring States, without that peace or the neutrality that we have announced to the world being disturbed by acts of your Government.

I make this statement to you with great regret, without prejudice to the fact that my Government possesses other means of ensuring respect for the integrity of our national territory.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my consideration.

Luis Alberto Monge
President of the Republic