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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:

THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE

AND SECURITY AND PEACE INITIATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL

Fortieth year

Letter dated 8 August 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 transmit to you herewith the text of the communiqué dated 7 August 1985 issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua concerning the kidnapping of about 50 people, including 29 United States citizens of the United States organization Witness for Peace and some 18 Nicaraguan and foreign journalists who were travelling along the San Juan River on a peace mission.

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

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

ANNEX

Communiqué dated 7 August 1985 issued by the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua

The Government of Nicaragua recently received from the United States organization Witness for Peace a request for permission to travel along the San Juan River on a peace mission. The Government granted that request but warned those concerned of the risks involved in that gesture of Christian solidarity, owing to the presence of mercenary groups in Costa Rican territory.

Since this journey along the San Juan River was announced, members of the mercenary organization ARDE in San José, Costa Rica, have threatened to fire on the Witness for Peace group, but the United States Christians nevertheless maintained their decision to carry out their peace mission.

Today, 7 August, at about 7.45 a.m., representatives of the Christian group in Managua, who were maintaining continuous radio contact with the group travelling along the river, informed our Government that mercenary groups based in Costa Rican territory were firing on them and ordering them to enter the territory of the neighbouring country, in the Machuca sector, 17 kilometres west of La Penca.

About 50 people have been kidnapped, including 29 United States citizens who are members of Witness for Peace and some 18 Nicaraguan and foreign journalists who were covering the Christian mission.

The Government of Nicaragua holds the United States Government responsible for these events, as the promoter and director of these mercenary and terrorist groups, and considers them responsible for the physical and moral integrity of those kidnapped. It likewise appeals to the Government of Costa Rica to begin immediately taking the necessary action to free the kidnapped and capture the mercenary groups.

The Government of Nicaragua has given specific instructions to its troops stationed in the sector near the border with Costa Rica not to respond to attacks or provocative action by the mercenary groups installed in Costa Rican territory, so as not to provide any pretext that could be used to the detriment of the United States and Nicaraguan hostages kidnapped by the ARDE terrorist groups.
