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

Letter dated 12 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 note dated 12 August 1985 from His Excellency Victor Hugo Tinoco, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, addressed to Mr. George Shultz, Secretary of State of the United States of America.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this note 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 dated 12 August 1985 from the Acting Minister for Foreign  
Affairs of Nicaragua addressed to the Secretary of State of  
the United States of America

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.

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

On 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 San Juan 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.

Forty-seven people were kidnapped, including 29 United States citizens who are members of Witness for Peace and 18 Nicaraguan and foreign journalists who were covering the Christian mission.

The United States citizens, who were freed on 8 August, confirmed that they had been kidnapped by members of ARDE, headed by the rebel leader Noel Boniche Quintanilla, a known member of that organization, as could be demonstrated. All these events, which occurred in Costa Rican territory, confirm once again the terrorist character of the mercenary groups financed by the Government of the United States. Moreover, the kidnapping took place shortly after the United States Congress approved \$27 million to continue the illegal war against Nicaragua.

The Government of Nicaragua, considering that the Government of the United States, through the Central Intelligence Agency, bears the main responsibility for the kidnapping of these United States citizens and the journalists who were accompanying them, lodges a formal and extremely strong protest and at the same time once again calls on the United States authorities to act in a manner consistent with their widely publicized anti-terrorist campaign and cease supporting all these mercenary organizations, whose objective has been and continues to be the promotion of terrorism against the Nicaraguan population.

Victor Hugo TINOCO  
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs