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

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Fortieth year

Letter dated 14 September 1985 from the Permanent Representative  
of Honduras to the United Nations addressed to the President of  
the Security Council

I have the honour to attach protest notes I and II of 13 September 1985 (see annexes I and II) which the Government of the Republic of Honduras has presented to the Government of Nicaragua as a result of further acts of aggression committed by the Sandinist Army against the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Honduras. This situation has forced the Government of Honduras to exercise its inherent right of self-defence.

I am also attaching press releases I and II of 13 and 14 September (see annexes III and IV) issued by the Government of Honduras, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in connection with the aforesaid serious acts of aggression.

I should be extremely grateful if you would have this letter and its annexes, which have already been submitted to the Organization of American States, circulated as documents of the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 25, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Roberto HERRERA CACERES  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

ANNEX I

Protest note I dated 13 September 1985 presented by the Government  
of the Republic of Honduras to the Government of Nicaragua

It is my duty to inform you of a further criminal act perpetrated by the Sandinist People's Army, in the place known as El Españolito in the Las Vegas-Arenales sector, Department of El Paraíso.

At 1000 hours today, 13 September, the Sandinist People's Army launched a mortar attack in which, according to first reports, one person was killed and eight others wounded, all of them of Honduran nationality.

In presenting to you this latest protest by the Government of Honduras at the constant acts of aggression committed by Sandinist forces against my country, I have the duty to inform you that crimes of this nature cannot go unpunished, since they violate national sovereignty for the protection of which Article 51 of the United Nations Charter authorizes the exercise of the inherent right of self-defence.

Faced with the outrageous aggressive attitude of the Government of Nicaragua, which has intensified in recent days, I wish to place on record that the Government of Honduras remains determined to preserve peace between the two countries through the Contadora negotiations but that, at the same time, it declines all responsibility for what may happen as a result of the aggressive behaviour of the Sandinist Government in attempting to undermine the security and territorial integrity of my country.

José Tomás ARITA VALLE  
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs

ANNEX II

Protest note II dated 13 September 1985 presented by the Government  
of the Republic of Honduras to the Government of Nicaragua

I am writing to inform you of further acts of harassment by the Sandinist People's Army against my country.

(a) At 1300 hours on 6 September 1985, a Honduran border patrol was attacked in Las Piñas sector, municipality of Concepción de María, Department of Choluteca, while it was carrying out routine patrol work. Acting in self-defence, the Honduran patrol returned the Sandinists' fire.

(b) At 1800 hours on 7 September, members of the Nicaraguan Army fired 22 mortar shells of 120 mm calibre over the sector known as La Lodosa in the municipality of El Paraíso.

(c) On 9 September, members of the Sandinist People's Army probably based at El Hato frontier post fired rifles at the village of Caguasca in the Department of Choluteca, situation a half kilometre from the frontier line, wounding one of its inhabitants.

(d) At 1400 hours on 10 September, a Sandinist People's Army patrol of about 20 men penetrated Honduran territory through Bocay sector, backed up by aircraft of the Nicaraguan Air Force which bombed the sector, continuing their action the following day until 1000 hours.

Once again, my Government voices its strong protest at these aggressive acts by the Government of Nicaragua and draws attention to the fact that such acts are increasing on the eve of and in the course of one of the meetings convened by the Contadora Group. It is obvious that this curious coincidence in no way facilitates the complex negotiations aimed at ensuring that the peoples of Central America can live in peace and security, for the legal possibility always exists of exercising the right to self-defence - something which would complicate still further the already difficult situation in the area.

José Tomás ARITA VALLE  
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs

ANNEX III

Press release dated 13 September 1985  
issued by the Government of Honduras

The Secretariat of Foreign Affairs announces to the public that at 10 a.m. today, 13 September, the Sandinist People's Army launched an attack which, according to early reports, has caused several deaths and casualties. In response to the constant acts of military aggression carried out by the Sandinist People's Army, the Honduran Military High Command has ordered a military alert along the border with Nicaragua on land, at sea and in the air, and, in exercise of the country's inherent right of self-defence, orders have been given to repel any action by the Sandinist People's Army in the national territory.

Military ground command officers subsequently reported concentrations of Sandinist troops and continuing hostile actions against the national territory. In the circumstances, the Honduran Air Force carried out air defence operations, in the course of which they took limited action against the artillery positions from which the hostile actions were originating, against Sandinist units and against Sandinist military helicopter formations, downing one helicopter.

The Honduran people may rest assured that the Government of the Republic and the Honduran armed forces remain on their guard to counter any action which may be taken against the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of our homeland.

Edgardo PAZ BARNICA  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

ANNEX IV

Press release dated 14 September 1985 issued by the Government  
of Honduras in connection with the most recent incidents  
provoked by the Sandinists

This summary provides an account of the acts of aggression carried out by the Sandinists beginning on Thursday, 12 September 1985, which have caused an increase in tension along the common border and casualties among innocent Honduran civilians.

(a) On 12 September 1985, the Sandinist People's Army opened LCM MB-21 fire on the Boca de Arenales sector (2634, on the Río Poteca map) in El Paraíso department. On the same day two armed helicopters of the Sandinist air force shelled the same sector.

(b) On 12 September 1985, troops of the Sandinist People's Army fired approximately 80 LCM BM-21 122-mm rockets on the sector known as Españolito (3949, on the Río Poteca map), causing the death of one soldier of the Sixth Infantry Battalion and wounding eight others. Also killed in the attack was Julia Exolina Ramos Castellanos, 8 years of age, the eldest daughter of Mr. Albino Ramos; the following individuals were wounded:

(1) Mr. Albino Ramos, father of the dead girl, 40 years of age and a native of Alauca, who received shell fragments in the shoulder, both hands and the chest. He is hospitalized in serious condition in the Escuela hospital;

(2) Mrs. Blanca Nubia Ramos (aunt of the dead girl), who sustained deep wounds of the legs and one arm; she is hospitalized in El Paraíso;

(3) Nina Abdunia Ramos Castellanos (5 years of age, sister of the dead girl) was hospitalized with three very serious fragment wounds in the Escuela hospital; the wounded were evacuated to the Escuela hospital by a helicopter of the Honduran Air Force. The dead girl was buried the same day, 13 September 1985.

(c) At 1314 hours on 13 September 1985, combat aircraft of the Honduran Air Force which were flying on a surveillance mission in Honduran airspace observed Nicaraguan troop movements in the frontier sector of Arenales in El Paraíso department and opened fire; there is no estimate of the casualties but the Sandinist troops were observed dispersing.

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(d) At 1425 hours on 13 September 1985, combat aircraft of the Honduran Air Force which were flying on a surveillance mission in Honduran airspace, in Arenales sector, El Paraíso department, encountered a formation of seven M-8 helicopters and one MI-24 helicopter, opened fire and hit the one MI-24, which exploded.

(e) At 1405 hours on 13 September 1985, combat aircraft of the Honduran Air Force which were flying on a surveillance mission in the frontier sector identified the Sandinist artillery positions which were being used to attack the national territory in Arenales sector and opened fire; no estimate of casualties was made. The aircraft of the Honduran Air Force returned to their base without further incident.

(f) At 1745 hours on 13 September 1985, Sandinist troops once again fired artillery shells on Honduran territory, this time on La Lodosá (7625 on the San Fernando map).

Edgardo PAZ BARNICA  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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