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LETTER DATED 4 JULY 1969 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF HONDURAS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Under instructions from the Government of Honduras, I have the honour to communicate to you, Sir, the following facts, with the request that you, in turn, will transmit the information contained in this memorandum to the States Members of the United Nations:

1. The Republics of Honduras and El Salvador are the only two States of Central America which have not yet fixed their common frontier. For more than a hundred years, Honduras has made every possible effort to remedy this irregular situation, which has been a source of friction and discontent. The last time the Government of Honduras took action along these lines was on 18 December 1967, when, on the initiative of the Government of El Salvador, the Government of Honduras prepared a draft of Foundations and Procedure, which was submitted to the Government of El Salvador; this document has still not been subjected to the customary procedure, nor has it received any response from the Government of El Salvador.
2. From time immemorial, thousands of citizens of El Salvador have lived in Honduras, most of whom entered the country in an irregular manner and remained there without changing their legal residence. In recent times, owing to non-compliance with the provisions of the Migration Act and its regulations, the Government of Honduras entered into special agreements with El Salvador to legalize their residence in the country, but these agreements were ineffective and consequently could not be extended. In the hope of finding a solution to this irregular situation and in exercise of its sovereignty, the Government of Honduras, at the Fourth Meeting of Central American Ministers for Foreign Affairs held at San Salvador in March of this year, proposed a plan for the appropriate and rational distribution of the excess population of El Salvador among the Central American States, but that plan still has not received the attention it merits.

3. In recent years, a series of unfortunate incidents, not provoked by Honduras, has disturbed the normal, fraternal relations between the two countries.

Most recently, this situation deteriorated during a sporting event held at San Salvador at which thousands of Honduran football enthusiasts were subjected to indescribable abuse and suffered moral and physical aggression against their persons and damage to their property, while the Honduran flag and anthem were jeered by a large segment of the Salvadorian people. A natural reaction broke loose among some elements of the Honduran population in various parts of the country, but it was immediately brought under control by the authorities of Honduras.

4. The Government of El Salvador, its Press and its radio initiated a campaign of defamation by distorting the events, thus compelling the Government of Honduras to send missions abroad in an attempt to explain what had really happened. Both Governments simultaneously asked the Organization of American States for the assistance of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; Honduras did so especially so that the false and absurd accusations of genocide, mass murders, rape and persecution would be investigated, while, unexpectedly and without awaiting regional and international agreements, the Government of El Salvador, in an unprecedented gesture, broke its relations with the Government of Honduras, thereby obliging it to defend itself by taking corresponding action. These extraordinary acts of the Government of El Salvador interrupted the normal course of Central American integration, and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, Nicaragua and Costa Rica offered their services in a direct initiative, which the Government of Honduras immediately accepted.

From the start of these events, in what appears to be a plan of deliberate hostile action, El Salvador has mobilized its armed forces and has unilaterally deployed its troops along the frontier in a show of military force; these events came to a head towards noon yesterday, when a clearly marked Honduran commercial airplane was subjected to artillery fire by the Salvadorian Army as it climbed in take-off from Ocotepeque Airport in the Department of Ocotepeque, which borders on El Salvador, while Honduran customs installations were the object of a similar attack. Meanwhile, the Honduran Air Force intercepted a Salvadorian military aircraft flying over the village of Gualcince, 20 km inside Honduran territory in the Department of Lempira.

My Government wishes to inform you, Sir, of all these facts, and at the same time respectfully requests that they be formally transmitted to the Missions of all States Members as a Security Council document, as an additional effort on the part of Honduras, in compliance with its international commitments, to maintain world peace and security in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter.

(Signed) F. Salomón JIMENEZ MUNCUIA
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
Alternate Representative
