

through negotiation of a comprehensive regional agreement", which the United States had supported. He pointed out that the issue before the Council was not one between Nicaragua and the United States; the real problem was the aggression of Nicaragua against its neighbours and the United States was prepared to come to the prompt assistance of the victims.⁷

The representative of Nicaragua questioned the United States insistence on attributing the problems of Central America solely to Nicaragua and observed that the Security Council and the international community were long aware that his country had been more than once subjected to aggression. She referred to a ruling in that regard by the International Court of Justice condemning the United States for its policy of aggression. She affirmed that the only force in Honduran territory that was not Honduran was that of the United States and the counter-revolutionary force created, armed and supplied by the United States Administration. She questioned why the mechanism of a fact-finding commission of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, proposed by her Government to the United States and Honduras, had not been accepted and reiterated that the reason for convening that meeting was to alert the Security Council to the fabrications and pretexts for wider United States involvement in the direct actions against Nicaragua. She recalled that the mechanism should be found for a solution of the situation within the Contadora

framework and in bilateral relations between the United States and Nicaragua. She reiterated the appeal made at a meeting with the Secretary-General of the United Nations to send a fact-finding mission to the border area, despite objections from the Honduran Government, and to send a commission to the bombed area of Nicaragua.⁸

The representative of Honduras, exercising the right of reply, clarified that his country was unable to accept the on-site presence of a United Nations commission as a matter of "national dignity", unless Nicaragua agreed to withdraw the Sandinista troops from its territory. He also stated that the military base in question was under sovereign administration, management and ownership of his country; the United States advisers operated in Honduras within the framework of friendly relations. He confirmed his country's readiness to withdraw the military advisers, in the interest of peace in the region, provided that Nicaragua would also withdraw its troops. He also denied that Honduras had sought to obtain F-15 aircraft and that it had a large number of F-5s. The representative presented photocopies of the military identification papers of Nicaraguan soldiers who were on Honduran territory, and other evidence.⁹

The President said that there were no more speakers on the list and that the next meeting of the Council would be fixed in the course of consultations.

⁷S/PV.2728, pp. 26-28.

⁸Ibid., pp. 28-32.

⁹Ibid., pp. 32 and 33.

31. STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (IN CONNECTION WITH HOSTAGE-TAKING AND ABDUCTION)¹

Decision: Statement by the President.

On 28 January 1987, following consultations of the Security Council, the President was authorized to issue a statement on behalf of the Members of the Council. The Statement reads as follows:

¹S/18641.

The members of the Security Council have had occasion in the past to draw attention to various acts of hostage-taking and abduction. In resolution 579 (1985) the Security Council condemned unequivocally all such acts and called for the immediate safe release of all hostages and abducted persons wherever and by whomever they are being held. Conscious of the serious implications of this issue, and, in particular, its humanitarian aspects, the members of the Council again condemn all acts of hostage-taking and abduction and demand the immediate and safe release of all hostages and abducted persons.

32. LETTER DATED 10 FEBRUARY 1988 FROM THE PERMANENT OBSERVER OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

LETTER DATED 10 FEBRUARY 1988 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

INITIAL PROCEEDINGS

By a note¹ dated 10 February 1988, the President of the Security Council circulated the text of a letter of the same date, together with its enclosure, from the Permanent Ob-

¹S/19488.

server of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, requesting an urgent meeting of the Council, in accordance with Article 35, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations, to consider the situation arising from the incident in which a commercial passenger airliner, Flight 858, of the Republic of Korea, with 115 people on board, had been destroyed by an explosion in mid-air during a regular flight from