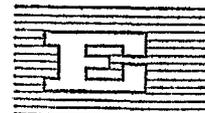


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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fortieth session
Agenda item 12

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS
IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL
AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Letter dated 7 March 1984 from the Permanent Representative
of Honduras to the United Nations Office at Geneva,
addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of Honduras to the United Nations Office and the international organizations in Geneva has the honour to request that the text of the note from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras to his Nicaraguan counterpart concerning the statement allegedly made by Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, architect and winner of the 1980 Nobel Peace Prize, should be circulated to all governmental and non-governmental delegations accredited to the fortieth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

Annex

NOTE DATED 2 FEBRUARY 1984 FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF HONDURAS TO THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF NICARAGUA

I am writing to you in order to elaborate on the points made in note No.86--DSM, dated 25 January 1984, which was sent by my Ministry in reply to your note of 24 January 1984 relating to the allegation by Mr. Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, winner of the 1980 Nobel Peace Prize, that 200 Nicaraguan Miskitos had been massacred by a Honduran military patrol at a border crossing between Honduras and Nicaragua on 6 January 1984.

As you stated in your note, the Ambassador of Honduras to Argentina was able to meet yesterday with Mr. Pérez Esquivel, who is spending the summer outside Buenos Aires and who vehemently denied that he had accused Honduran military staff of killing 200 Miskitos. He stated that he had merely passed on information he had received the day before his visit to the Mocorón refugee camp, when international officials on the spot heard a radio report from a Honduran military patrol stating that it had news that some Miskitos had been killed on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border and that it was therefore calling for a commission of inquiry.

Mr. Pérez Esquivel also stated that the second in command of the zone, Lt. Col. Valderrama, had told him that the Commander of the zone was already investigating the incident and that he could rest assured that the number of victims had been exaggerated. The winner of the Nobel Peace Prize also reported that, while he was in Panama, the meeting of the Contadora Group had already ended and he had been unable to meet with Mr. Paz Barnica, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras to give him information on what had allegedly occurred; he said that he had, however, informed you of the incident and had not made any accusations, although he had requested that both Governments should conduct an investigation and, if the facts were verified, punish those responsible.

As you can see, Mr. Pérez Esquivel's alleged complaint against the Government of Honduras was just another publicity stunt by the Government of Nicaragua; there was no truth to it and it resembled the alleged kidnapping and murder of Monsignor Schläefer in December 1983. Fortunately, the true facts came to light in both cases, thus proving that the Nicaraguan Government would go to any lengths to try to conceal what was really happening to its people.

The truth of the matter is that the incident in which the Government of Nicaragua tried to involve Mr. Pérez Esquivel was the one which occurred on 5 January, when elements of the Sandinista people's army made an incursion into the Honduran community of Sunlaya in the department of Gracias a Dios and killed approximately 18 Nicaraguan Miskito refugees. In this connection, my Government submits a formal and strong protest and demands a prompt explanation by your Government concerning this reprehensible incident, which has already been brought to the attention of the Inter-American community.

(Signed) Arnulfo Pineda López
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs

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(Signed) Arnulfo Pineda López
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs