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CABLEGRAM DATED 19 JUNE 1954 FROM THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS
OF GUATEMALA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

CABLE DATED 19 June 1954, 12/52 a.m.

FROM: Guatemala City

ADDRESSED TO: The President of the Security Council, United Nations, New York

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO ADDRESS YOUR EXCELLENCY ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF
GUATEMALA IN ORDER TO INFORM YOU OF THE FOLLOWING:

ON 1 APRIL 1953 THE GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA INFORMED THE UNITED NATIONS OF
THE INTENTION OF CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL GROUPS TO INTERFERE IN THE
INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF GUATEMALA, AND IN THE DOCUMENT IT SUBMITTED IT SET FORTH A
WHOLE SERIES OF FACTS ILLUSTRATING THOSE INTENTIONS. THERE HAVE NOW OCCURRED
EVENTS OF SUCH GRAVITY THAT MY GOVERNMENT FEELS OBLIGED TO APPEAL TO THE UNITED
NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL IN ORDER TO PREVENT A DISRUPTION OF THE PEACE IN
THE AMERICAN CONTINENT. SINCE THE RECENT ARRIVAL IN GUATEMALA OF ARMS FOR HER
ARMED FORCES, OFFICIAL UNITED STATES SPOKESMEN HAVE BEEN SAYING, FALSELY AND
TENDENCIOSLY, THAT THIS DEFENSE EQUIPMENT, ACQUIRED BY MY GOVERNMENT IN THE
PERFORMANCE OF ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHTS, WERE INTENDED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ATTACKING
NEIGHBOURING CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES. SUCH STATEMENTS WERE AND ARE COMPLETELY
FALSE. GUATEMALA HAD MANY TIMES DECLARED THAT IT NEITHER HAD NOR HAS AGGRESSIVE
INTENTIONS. EVENTS HAVE SHOWN THAT WHILE THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS AN
UNSHAKABLE POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP AND NON-INTERVENTION, OTHER GOVERNMENTS ARE
PURSUING A POLICY OF HOSTILITY AND AGGRESSIVENESS TOWARDS OUR COUNTRY. THE FIRST
RESPONSE TO THE INCITEMENT PROVIDED BY THE OFFICIAL UNITED STATES SPOKESMEN CAME
FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA, WHICH UNILATERALLY ANNOUNCED THE BREAKING OFF OF
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GUATEMALA ON 19 MAY LAST. THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA
GAVE EXPLANATIONS WHICH WERE NOT ONLY FALSE BUT WHICH, EVEN IF THEY HAD BEEN TRUE,
WOULD NOT HAVE JUSTIFIED A RUPTURE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. ON 26 MAY 1954,

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UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT FROM THE DIRECTION OF HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA VIOLATED GUATEMALAN TERRITORY BY FLYING OVER THE CITY OF GUATEMALA AND DROPPING PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS INCITING THE GUATEMALAN ARMY TO RISE AGAINST THE LEGITIMATE AND CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT OF OUR COUNTRY. ON 7 JUNE 1954, THESE PLANES MADE ANOTHER INCURSION AND DROPPED SIMILAR PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS OVER VARIOUS PARTS OF OUR TERRITORY. ON 14 JUNE, THE PLANES DID NOT CONFINE THEMSELVES TO DROPPING PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS: THIS TIME THEY PARACHUTED ARMS AND AMMUNITION INTO THE AREA OF TIQUISATE, HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMPANIA AGRICOLA DE GUATEMALA, WHICH IS A SUBSIDIARY OF THE UNITED FRUIT COMPANY. THESE ARMS APPEAR TO BE OF SOVIET AND NORTH AMERICAN MAKE. THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT, RELIABLY INFORMED THAT EXPEDITIONARY FORCES SITUATED IN HONDURAS WERE PREPARING TO INVADE GUATEMALAN TERRITORY, MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS THROUGH THE NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, REQUESTING IT, FOR THE SAKE OF INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP, TO RESTRAIN AND CONTROL THESE ARMED GROUPS. THE HONDURAN GOVERNMENT IN REPLY GAVE ASSURANCES THAT THESE ELEMENTS WOULD BE RESTRAINED, BUT IN FACT NO MEASURE WAS TAKEN FOR THAT PURPOSE, AS MAY EASILY BE PROVED FROM STATEMENTS IN THE HONDURAN PRESS ITSELF. ON 15 JUNE THE INVADING AIRCRAFT AGAIN VIOLATED OUR TERRITORY, FLYING OVER THE SAME AREA OF TIQUISATE AND OTHER PLACES. ON 16 JUNE THERE WAS ANOTHER VIOLATION, APPARENTLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING OUT RECONNAISSANCE OVER VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. ON 17 JUNE I APPEALED DIRECTLY TO THE CHANCELLOR OF HONDURAS, AND STATED THAT IN SPITE OF THE ASSURANCES GIVEN BY HIS GOVERNMENT, THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCES PREPARING TO INVADE GUATEMALA HAD NOT BEEN RESTRAINED. I REPEATED OUR REQUEST IN THIS CONNEXION, AND DEMANDED THAT THEY SHOULD BE DISARMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE AGREEMENTS IN FORCE. THE SAME DAY THE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE OF GUATEMALA IN HONDURAS MADE STRONG REPRESENTATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THAT COUNTRY, PROTESTING AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT'S PASSIVE

ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE PREPARATIONS BEING MADE BY THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCES TO INVADE GUATEMALA. AT THE SAME TIME WE REITERATED OUR DESIRE TO MAINTAIN THE FRIENDLIEST OF RELATIONS WITH THAT COUNTRY AND TO AVOID ANY BREACH OF THE PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA. HOWEVER, NOTWITHSTANDING THE REPEATED REQUESTS WHICH WE MADE IN FRIENDLY FASHION, THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCES WHICH WE HAD CONDEMNED CAPTURED THE GUATEMALAN FRONTIER POST OF EL FLORIDO IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHIQUIMULA, AND LATER ADVANCED ABOUT FIFTEEN KILOMETRES INSIDE GUATEMALAN TERRITORY. THESE FORCES ARE STILL IN OUR TERRITORY AND WE HAVE NOT DEMANDED THEIR WITHDRAWAL PRECISELY BECAUSE WE DO NOT WANT TO GIVE OTHER PRETEXTS, THIS TIME IN CONNEXION WITH FRONTIER INCIDENTS. THIS MORNING AIRCRAFT FROM THE DIRECTION OF HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA HAVE INVADDED OUR COUNTRY, DROPPING EXPLOSIVE BOMBS ON STOCKS OF FUEL IN THE PORT OF SAN JOSE AND ON THE CITY OF RETALHULEU. TODAY AT 4.00 P.M. P-47-TYPE PLANES OF UNITED STATES MAKE ALSO FROM THE DIRECTION OF THESE TWO COUNTRIES ATTACKED THE CITY OF GUATEMALA, MACHINE-GUNNING GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND PRIVATE DWELLINGS AND BOMBING MILITARY BASES. THE SAME AIRCRAFT LATER ATTACKED THE MILITARY BASE AT THE PORT OF SAN JOSE. THE AGGRESSOR GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL PROVOCATEURS HAVE FELT SAFE IN COMMITTING SUCH OUTRAGES AND ACTS OF AGGRESSION BECAUSE THEY KNEW THAT GUATEMALA PURSUES A POLICY OF FRIENDLY AND PEACEFUL RELATIONS WITH HER NEIGHBOURS, AND ALSO MORE PARTICULARLY, BECAUSE THE POLICY OF ENCIRCLING AND BOYCOTTING OUR COUNTRY WHICH HAS BEEN PURSUED BY UNITED STATES LEADERS HAS LEFT US WITHOUT AN AIR FORCE SUFFICIENT TO REPEL REPEATED ACTS OF AGGRESSION. THOSE GOVERNMENTS PROBABLY FELT SAFE TOO BECAUSE THEY HAVE RECENTLY SIGNED MILITARY AGREEMENTS WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS REJECTED THE PACT OF FRIENDSHIP AND NON-AGGRESSION OFFERED BY MY GOVERNMENT TO THAT OF HONDURAS IN PROOF OF ITS FRIENDLY AND PEACEABLE INTENTIONS. THE FACTS WE HAVE JUST CITED CLEARLY PROVE THAT OPEN AGGRESSION HAS BEEN PERPETRATED BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA AT THE INSTIGATION OF CERTAIN FOREIGN MONOPOLIES WHOSE INTERESTS HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE PROGRESSIVE POLICY OF MY GOVERNMENT. GUATEMALA HAS SIMPLY DEFENDED HER SOVEREIGN RIGHTS

BY ENACTING AND APPLYING THOSE LAWS WHICH SEEMED TO HER NECESSARY TO PROMOTE THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS. FOR THAT REASON THE INTERNATIONAL CRIME WHICH HAS BEEN COMMITTED IS ALL THE MORE TO BE CONDEMNED. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, I WOULD REQUEST YOUR EXCELLENCY URGENTLY TO CONVENE A MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL IN ORDER THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLES 34, 35 AND 39 OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER, IT MAY TAKE THE MEASURES NECESSARY TO PREVENT THE DISRUPTION OF PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY IN THIS PART OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND ALSO TO PUT A STOP TO THE AGGRESSION IN PROGRESS AGAINST GUATEMALA.

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO BE, ETC.

GUILLERMO TORIELLO
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

