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U.S. Ambassador To U.N. Responds To Nicaraguan Charges On Washington's Involvement In Border Attacks

by Deborah Tyroler
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Addressing a meeting of the United Nations Security Council Dec. 10, US Ambassador to the UN Vernon Walters said Sandinista charges that the United States was involved in attacks against the Nicaraguan army earlier this month "are not only absurd, but completely false." He added that the Nicaraguan government has once again brought "shopworn complaints and propaganda" before the Council. Walters stated that Washington responded to a request from Honduran President Jose Azcona, transporting Honduran troops and supplies in nine unarmed US helicopters from near Tegucigalpa to an airfield 40 km. from the conflict. The Nicaraguan government requested that the Council meet to consider "the serious incidents occurring at the present in the Central American region which endanger international peace and security." The request marked the 14th time Nicaragua has asked for a Security Council meeting on similar issues since 1981. Nicaraguan Ambassador to the UN, Nora Astorga, claimed the United States was responsible for Dec. 7 air attacks on civilian and military targets inside Nicaragua, and for using Honduras to attack Nicaraguan troops along the border. Honduran Ambassador to the UN Roberto Martinez Ordonez stated that Nicaragua is using the United Nations for publicity purposes in order to obscure the "real situation in the region": Nicaraguan troops have been occupying Honduras during much of 1986. Walters claimed that Nicaraguan violation of Honduran territory "is no mere border incident. It is further evidence of the serious threat by the Sandinistas to their neighbor."

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