



**EMBASSY OF HONDURAS TO THE KINGDOM
OF THE NETHERLANDS**

28 March 2007

Sir,

With reference to the case concerning Maritime Delimitation between Nicaragua and Honduras in the Caribbean Sea (Nicaragua v. Honduras), I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 23 March 2007 with reference 130088, addressed to H.E. Mr. Max Velásquez Díaz and H.E. Roberto Flores Bermúdez, Agents of the Republic of Honduras, through which Your Excellency has transmitted a copy of the written reply dated 22 March 2007 from the Agent of the Republic of Nicaragua to the question put by Judge Simma at the public sitting held on 20 March 2007.

With regard to the aforementioned reply of Nicaragua, the Government of Honduras believes that much of the content of said letter is not responsive to the question raised and only restates various positions of Nicaragua concerning the islands of Honduras that Honduras responded to during the course of the oral proceedings.

As for the question put by Judge Simma, the Government of Honduras recalls that on 23 March 2007, counsel for Honduras demonstrated that in geographical situations such as are present here, where the islands might fall on the wrong side of a hypothetical proposed line of delimitation, the technique of fully enclaving islands has not been used in State practice, the reason being that the Honduran islands do not lie right up against the coast of Nicaragua; instead, State practice suggests the semi-enclave technique would be used in these circumstances with the islands receiving a 12-nautical mile belt of territorial sea.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julio Rendón Barnica', written over a horizontal line.

Julio Rendón Barnica
Co-Agent of the Republic of Honduras

His Excellency
Mr. Philippe Couvreur
Registrar
International Court of Justice
Peace Palace
The Hague