



Security Council

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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND NINETY-FIFTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 2 July 1986, at 10 a.m.

President: M. KASEMSRI

(Thailand)

Members: Australia
Bulgaria
China
Congo
Denmark
France
Ghana
Madagascar
Trinidad and Tobago
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela

Mr. WOOLCOTT
Mr. TSVETKOV
Mr. LI Luye
Mr. GAYAMA
Mr. BIERRING
Mr. BROCHAND
Mr. GBEHO
Mr. RAKOTONDRAMBOA
Mr. ALLEYNE
Mr. SAFRONCHUK
Mr. AL-SHAALI

Mr. GORE-BOOTH
Mr. WALTERS
Mr. AGUILAR

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

LETTER DATED 27 JUNE 1986 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NICARAGUA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/18187)

The PRESIDENT: In accordance with decisions taken by the Council at its 2694th meeting, I invite the representative of Nicaragua to take a place at the Council table; I invite the representative of India to take the place reserved for him at the side of the Council Chamber.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Astorga Gadea (Nicaragua) took a place at the Council table; Mr. Verma (India) took the place reserved for him at the side of the Council Chamber.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to inform members of the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Afghanistan, Democratic Yemen, the German Democratic Republic, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Spain, the Syrian Arab Republic and Viet Nam in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In accordance with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Zarif (Afghanistan), Mr. Al-Alfi (Democratic Yemen), Mr. Ott (German Democratic Republic), Mr. Vongsay (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Mr. Moran (Spain), Mr. Al-Atassi (Syrian Arab Republic) and Mr. Bui Xuan Nhat (Viet Nam) took the places reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The PRESIDENT: The Security Council will now resume consideration of the item on its agenda.

I should like to draw the attention of members of the Council to document S/18196, which contains the text of a letter dated 30 June 1986 from the Acting Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General.

The first speaker is the representative of the German Democratic Republic. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. OTT (German Democratic Republic): At the very outset, I should like to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July and to wish you every success in fulfilling this responsible task.

Similarly, the delegation of the German Democratic Republic avails itself of this opportunity to express its appreciation to the President of the Council for last month, the Permanent Representative of Madagascar to the United Nations, Ambassador Rabetafika.

I should also like to thank you, Mr. President, and the other members of the Council for giving me the opportunity to set forth my country's position on the subject of today's meeting.

The German Democratic Republic supports Nicaragua's request for the convening of this urgent meeting of the Council to counter a further escalation of tensions in this region and the ensuing dangers for international peace and security.

In his statement yesterday, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua clearly pointed to the real causes of the aggravation of the situation in the region. There is no doubt that they are rooted in the policy of threat and blackmail pursued by the most aggressive imperialist circles against Nicaragua.

(Mr. Ott, German Democratic Republic)

Recent events in this country and decisions made in Washington have led to a new stage in the undeclared war against Nicaragua. What has long been done is now officially approved and will be continued in new dimensions: mercenary gangs and counter-revolutionaries of all kinds are to receive more millions of dollars, new weapons and equipment, training and instruction by United States military and secret service specialists in order to intensify attacks on Nicaraguan villages, towns and cities and continue the murder of innocent people.

The aim of that policy, practised and steadily intensified by the main imperialist Power for more than five years now, has been openly declared, namely, to topple by military force the legitimate Government of a sovereign, independent and non-aligned country, a State Member of the United Nations - Nicaragua - and to eliminate the social order freely chosen by its people in the exercise of its right to self-determination.

The German Democratic Republic, like many other States, condemns any military and financial aid to irregular armed forces and subversive groups that, as in the case of the so-called contras try, from foreign territory, to overthrow the legitimate Government of Nicaragua.

In line with its policy of peace and co-operation, dialogue and understanding, the German Democratic Republic resolutely opposes this course of State terrorism and force in international relations. This course is met with world-wide rejection and condemnation, since it completely disregards the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and endangers peace in the region and the world at large. This course violates the basic principles and norms of customary international law.

With regard to that policy, the International Court of Justice has delivered a clear judgement. In the case concerning military and paramilitary activities in and against Nicaragua, the Court decided that the United States had acted against the Republic of Nicaragua in breach of its obligations under customary international

(Mr. Ott, German Democratic Republic)

law in many and serious cases. Rejection of the judgement and decisions of the International Court of Justice by no means changes the facts: it does not change the aggressive policy of threat and blackmail, provocation and intervention. Undoubtedly noteworthy is the clear rejection of the alleged assertion of need for a so-called collective self-defence, which has been fabricated only to justify that aggressive course.

Allow me to comment on another aspect in this context. Is it by mere chance that, at a time when those great and proud words "liberty", "freedom" and "justice" are being praised so often, we are being taught a lesson in how those common values are to be reduced to nothing by certain circles with regard to Nicaragua and other peoples?

(Mr. Ott, German Democratic Republic)

As we read even in The New York Times a few days ago, one side feels at liberty to topple the legitimate Government of Nicaragua and to wage a covert and overt war to that end. The other side, however, the freely elected Government of Nicaragua, is to be refused even the liberty to exist and to defend itself against the continuing interference in the internal affairs of its country. Is it not high time to abandon that double standard, and to respect, without reservation, the principles of equality and equal security vis-à-vis all States, big or small, irrespective of their social order and geographical location?

At their recent Budapest meeting, the Warsaw Treaty member States again demonstrated their consistent endeavour to bring about agreements in various fields in order to avert the danger of a nuclear inferno for mankind and to put world peace on a stable and lasting foundation. In their communiqué they emphasized that

"The world has arrived at a stage of its development where reluctance to address the fundamental questions of our age is tantamount to jeopardizing the fate of the whole of civilization. Under the present circumstances no State or group of States can build its own security and well-being upon imposing its will on other countries and peoples by military force. Such policy, whether called 'neoglobalism' or justified by the struggle against terrorism, or by any other pretext, offers no perspective. Such policy is fatal for mankind."

(S/18147, p. 3)

For many years now the brave and proud people of Nicaragua has struggled to determine its life by itself and thus to create a sovereign and democratic homeland. The German Democratic Republic supports the constructive proposals recently made by President Daniel Ortega, which are aimed at a peace settlement in Central America and the establishment of good-neighbourly relations between

(Mr. Ott, German Democratic
Republic)

States. At the same time, the German Democratic Republic welcomes the efforts made by the Contadora States and the Support Group to find a peaceful solution.

Fully in line with world public opinion and in conformity with what peoples expect, the German Democratic Republic emphatically calls for an immediate end to the undeclared war against Nicaragua and to the escalating acts of murder and terror perpetrated against the people of Nicaragua. The Security Council should, in accordance with its responsibility, adopt relevant measures and thus contribute to a peaceful, just and honourable solution in Central America.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the German Democratic Republic for the kind words he addressed to me.

The next speaker is the representative of Viet Nam. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. BUI XUAN NHAT (Viet Nam): At the outset, Sir, I congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for this month. I also congratulate the representative of Madagascar, Ambassador Blaise Rabetafika, who fulfilled his responsibility as President for the month of June in an exemplary manner. Finally, I thank you and the other members of the Council for giving me the opportunity to speak at this meeting.

The representative of the United States seemed to be highly statistics-minded when he said that the Council had met 11 times on the question under discussion. I am sure that he made no mistake about it. It is true that the Council has met many times on the issue. But we should ask "Why?". Nobody would ever think that the representative of Nicaragua enjoys requesting such meetings. If it were not for the acts of aggression by the United States against Nicaragua, the Council would have been saved a great deal of time.

(Mr. Bui Xuan What, Viet Nam)

The United States does not conceal its contempt for the liberation movement, and therefore seizes every opportunity to support the rebels fighting elected Governments in Asia, Africa, Latin America and elsewhere around the world, or in many cases to commit acts of aggression against sovereign States. The invasion of Grenada, the bombing of Libya, the connivance with the apartheid régime of South Africa in the raids on the front-line States in Africa and the collusion with Israel in the Middle East are just a few examples.

In Central America, a region the United States used to consider its own backyard, its sphere of influence, it still arrogates to itself the right to call the shots, so any country which seems to be independence-oriented - that is, chooses its own way - should be punished.

The new provision of aid to the contras is, therefore, not a separate act, but part of United States policy in the region. But the aid this time is revealing. First, it is called for the first time ever by its real name, military aid, instead of being disguised as humanitarian aid, as it used to be. Secondly, it has been approved at a time when there is a regional arrangement for the settlement of disputes and differences among the regional States. It also comes at a time when Nicaragua continues to show its political good will and is putting numerous constructive proposals to the States of the region and the United States.

Nicaragua threatens no country, let alone the United States, which is many times bigger and stronger. What it has done is purely for the defence of its own people. It is therefore illogical for the United States to do something in self-defence.

Yesterday we heard the representative of the United States go all the way to bend the facts in order to justify the acts by his Administration against

(Mr. Rui Xuan What, Viet Nam)

Nicaragua. But how could he, when it is in black and white that the present United States Administration vows to "remove the Sandinista Government by force"?

In 1981, the Central Intelligence Agency organized the ex-Somosa guards into the contras, and it has ever since financed, trained and directed them in their destructive and subversive acts against Nicaragua. Then came in 1983-84 the mining of Nicaragua's ports, followed by the imposition of a trade embargo and the approval of the so-called humanitarian aid to the contras in 1985.

(Mr. Bui Xuan Nhat, Viet Nam)

Now in 1986, it is \$100 million in military aid. It is clear that the present military aid is a furtherance of United States hostile policy towards Nicaragua and yet another step in the escalation of aggression on the part of the former against the latter. One hundred million dollars, if used for economic purposes, would mean a lot for a poor people; but when used for military purposes, it would be blood-soaked dollars, because it brings more ambushes and kidnapping, more mines and shells and more death and suffering to the Nicaraguan people, which wants nothing other than to live in peace, in good-neighbourliness and co-operation with its neighbors, so as to build its country into prosperity. The new act by the United States is a stumbling-block on the way towards that end. It further demonstrates that the United States has turned its back to the will and aspirations of peoples throughout the region and the world. It constitutes the most flagrant violation of the basic principles enshrined in the Charter and of international law, which is inclined to endanger the independence and sovereignty of Nicaragua and the peace, stability and security of the whole region, with unpredictable consequences.

The new act by the United States Administration has been strongly condemned throughout the world. The International Court of Justice, in its ruling, condemned it as running counter to international law. The Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, in its urgent meeting two days ago, issued a communiqué voicing the Movement's indignation and its condemnation of the United States act of aggression against Nicaragua. The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam joins other speakers in vehemently condemning this act by the United States Administration and demands that the United States put an immediate end to it. We call on the Security Council also to condemn the irresponsible act by the United States Government.

(Mr. Bui Xuan Nhat, Viet Nam)

We listened attentively to the statement by Nicaragua's Foreign Minister, who came here to appeal to the members of the Security Council and of the international community for help to defend his own people in the face of State terrorism practised by the United States. On behalf of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, I can assure him and the Nicaraguan people of our whole-hearted support and militant solidarity. We, the Vietnamese people, express our admiration for the heroic people of Nicaragua, who have spared no sacrifices for the defence of their Sandinist cause and their country. We are confident that with justice, and all of progressive mankind on their side, the people of Nicaragua will frustrate all attempts or acts of aggression, covert or overt, and will successfully defend the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of their country.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the Representative of Viet Nam for his kind words addressed to the presidency.

Mr. SAPRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): First, Sir, allow me to welcome you to the lofty post of President of the Security Council and to express the confidence that your diplomatic skills, which are well known to the members of the Security Council, will serve you in good stead in the discharge of your duties.

Similarly, the Soviet delegation takes this opportunity to express gratitude to your predecessor, Ambassador Rabetafika, who, with great skill and tact, exercised his functions as President of the Security Council for the month of June.

The Soviet delegation heard with understanding the urgent request of Nicaragua in the Security Council in yesterday's statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann, who put forward convincing facts attesting to the escalation of the United States aggressive policy against his country - a policy that threatens international peace and security.

(Mr. Safronchuk, USSR)

Over the last few years the United Nations has witnessed the consistent efforts of non-aligned Nicaragua to avail itself of the recourse procedures set out in the United Nations Charter to defend its sovereignty, to maintain peace and security in the region and to respect obligations arising from generally recognized norms of international relations. At Nicaragua's request the question on the aggressive actions of the United States has frequently been considered in the Security Council and in the General Assembly.

Recently, the main judicial organ of the United Nations, the International Court of Justice, after a comprehensive and detailed consideration, announced its decision concerning the complaint made by the Government of Nicaragua. The decision of the International Court states directly that by training, arming, equipping and financing the contra forces carrying out an armed struggle against Nicaragua, the United States is violating norms of international law. Interference in the affairs of Nicaragua is also evident in the mining of its territorial waters, over-flights of Nicaraguan territory and in direct attacks by the United States in Nicaraguan ports and on other economic targets.

As the International Court indicated, Washington's actions encourage acts by counter-revolutionary forces that violate the norms of humanitarian law. The United States, the decision of the Court stresses, must immediately halt all such acts. Of particular significance is the Court's rejection of claims to the arbitrary exercise of the right to "collective self-defence", frequently invoked by Washington to justify its aggression against sovereign States.

In the last few days, the United States has undertaken new acts against Nicaragua, in flagrant violation of international law, the United Nations Charter and the norms of civilized inter-State conduct. The House of Representatives of

(Mr. Safronchuk, USSR)

the United States Congress approved an allocation of \$100 million to finance mercenaries, terrorize the peaceful population and undermine the economy of Nicaragua. Indeed, Capitol Hill has openly proclaimed the policy of overthrowing the legitimate Government of an independent country, a Member of the United Nations.

It is plain to see, therefore, that an extremely dangerous step is being taken to aggravate tension in Central America and to escalate the undeclared war which the United States has already been waging for so many years against the people of that region.

Under the cover of the hypocritical arguments about "freedom and democracy", the United States is actually carrying out a policy of State terrorism which has already claimed tens of thousands of victims amongst the inhabitants of Nicaragua, El Salvador and other countries of Central America.

(Mr. Safronchuk, USSR)

It is difficult to understand the basis of the logic used by those who, in words, support the struggle against terrorism but who, in deeds, are the "godfathers" of counter-revolutionary bands, which kidnap people, terrorize peaceable civilians, destroy crops and peaceful co-operatives, and mine Nicaraguan roads. The victims of these acts are primarily the civilian population of that country.

The people of Nicaragua have made their political choice; yet attempts are being made at bayonet-point by mercenary bandits to impose upon them measures to the liking of Washington. The United States has rejected international treaties and agreements in favour of carrying out an arms race, bombing peaceful cities, mining ports and other manifestations of a tyrannic international policy. It is obvious that this United States line undermines international law and order and is an attempt to legitimize the cult of force in relations among States. That course is a challenge to the entire international community.

The latest step taken by the United States Administration has unmasked that Administration as an open opponent of a political settlement in Central America. The granting of assistance to the contras has yet again belied United States statements about a diplomatic process in the region. Recent events confirm that Washington is doing all it can to prevent progress in that sphere. Obviously, it is no coincidence that a special Pentagon report spoke in May 1986 about the "dangerous consequences" of the adoption of the Contadora Act on Peace and Co-operation in Central America. It is notable that new support for the contras comes at a time when there is a glimmer of hope for the success of the Contadora process and when the outlines of a generally acceptable solution have been emerging. That progress has been possible largely because of the proposals of the Nicaraguan Government opening the way to the resolution of unresolved issues.

(Mr. Safronchuk, USSR)

What was the United States reply to the possibility of the Latin American countries working out a settlement? Urgent appeals by the Contadora Group and the Support Group have been rejected. In a Message of 7 June, those Groups expressed their opposition to the provision of assistance to subversive groups. Nicaragua's proposal for a radical reduction in offensive weapons was answered with United States plans to supply the counter-revolutionaries with heavy weapons. Washington's latest public statements and actions show ever more clearly its desire to prove that the countries of Latin America are incapable of independently securing the foundations of peace and security in the region. Moreover, Washington itself is attempting to decide what conditions for a settlement would be to the liking of the peoples of Central America - and none of their conditions have been to their liking.

Thus, there is a challenge both to the Contadora Group - which, it is well known, enjoys broad international support - and to the whole of Latin America, which is striving to resolve conflicts in that region without outside interference. The views of the international community - particularly the Non-Aligned Movement - are being ignored, along with the views of the Western European States and of citizens' organizations both in the United States and abroad. This is nothing less than an attack on international law and order and on the right of peoples to independence and sovereignty and independently to determine their own future.

At the same time, the United States Administration is raising a propaganda row about a fictitious threat to its "national interests" from Nicaragua, Cuba and the Soviet Union. Washington is using this campaign in an attempt to mask its own policies in the region, and is employing bold-faced lies and gross distortions of fact.

(Mr. Safronchuk, USSR)

My delegation states specifically that any kind of selfish interests in Central America are alien to the Soviet Union. We categorically reject fabrications about the Soviet Union's supposed intention to use the territory of Nicaragua for military and strategic purposes, to establish bases there, and so on. That is all sheer invention.

The facts testify to the contrary. It is the United States which is pursuing a course of militarization in Central America and threatening military pressure against Nicaragua and other Central American States. Thousands of United States military personnel are stationed permanently in the region, and there are constant manoeuvres, which could at any moment spill over the borders. United States military bases - including airfields which can accommodate large transport aircraft - are under construction on the territory of Nicaragua's neighbours. A Pentagon official has said that such preparations are planned many years in advance. A new dangerous development is the United States plan for the United States Army itself to train the mercenaries. All this convincingly shows who is really interfering in the affairs of the Central American region.

As underscored in a TASS statement of 29 June 1986,

"Washington is enlarging the material base for the unleashing of a large-scale armed conflict in Central America, in which many States may be involved. This turn of events is fraught with fatal consequences not only for the Latin American continent. It will inevitably affect the general world situation and cannot fail to influence Soviet-American relations". (S/18194, p. 3)

The Soviet Union strongly condemns the new, extremely dangerous step taken by the United States to escalate its aggressive activities in Central America, and we demand that it be halted. We express our solidarity with and firm support for the

(Mr. Safronchuk, USSR)

just cause of the people of Nicaragua, which is fighting for its independence and freedom and for peace in Central America. The Soviet Union believes that a solution to the critical situation in Central America will be possible only through a political settlement on the basis of the generally recognized norms of international law.

We are convinced that the Security Council must strongly oppose attempts to trample upon the sovereignty of independent countries, large or small, and upon the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. All States Members of the Organisation that cherish peace and security and oppose increased international tension must state their views about United States action. In the present situation it is important to do everything possible to prevent a dangerous spread of the conflict and to shift the development of the situation in Central America into normal channels.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for his kind words addressed to the presidency.

The next speaker is the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. AL-ATASSI (Syrian Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic): First, I wish to tell you, Mr. President, how much my delegation appreciates your personal qualities: your competence, your statesmanship and your vast knowledge. I take this opportunity to extend to you our congratulations on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. We have every confidence that you will guide the Council's work wisely and objectively.

I take this opportunity, too, to express our great appreciation to your predecessor, the Ambassador of Madagascar, for the exemplary way in which he conducted the Security Council's work last month.

Yesterday we listened very carefully to the substantive statement made to the Security Council by the Foreign Minister of Nicaragua. His expression of concern at the persistent attempts by the United States to destabilize the Government of Nicaragua and to overthrow the popular régime there was, in my delegation's view, legitimate. He set forth facts that we believe merit attention, especially by the international community.

The Security Council is meeting to consider the complaint by Nicaragua against the United States for its attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of independent States in Central America. In this connection, the Council has the duty to put an end to such flagrant, direct intervention by a super-Power, a permanent member of the Security Council. The Council must shoulder its important responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The intervention by the United States is reflected in the approval by the United States House of Representatives of the provision by the United States

(Mr. Al-Atassi, Syrian Arab
Republic)

Administration of \$100 million to a band of mercenaries in the form of training and military and other assistance, with the sole aim of destabilizing the duly elected Government of Nicaragua and subsequently overthrowing it. The approval of the earmarking by the United States Administration of this assistance for those purposes is, in the view of the world, an explicit contravention of the provisions of the United Nations Charter, the principles of international law and the ethical rules governing relations among States. The attempts to interfere in Nicaragua's internal affairs and to overthrow its popular régime are bound to destabilize Central America and to jeopardize peace and security in that region.

This is not the first action by the United States Administration against the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Nicaragua, and it will not be the last. Indeed, it is but one link in a chain of persistent, tireless attempts by the United States Administration to overthrow this progressive, populist régime which enjoys wide support among the masses.

The principles of self-determination and the right of peoples to choose their own social and economic systems have been internationally and universally confirmed; they have been enshrined by the international Organization. It appears, however, that such principles and other ethical and humanitarian values do not enjoy the approval of the United States.

The United States must immediately desist from these attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of peoples and nations. It must pursue the policy of understanding and dialogue rather than that of threats and aggression. The time when the colonizers could exercise their brutal might against peoples has long since passed.

(Mr. Al-Atassi, Syrian Arab
Republic)

Nicaragua, which fully believes in peace and peaceful coexistence, has repeatedly expressed its readiness to negotiate with regard to the stability of the region. Peace cannot be restored to the region and confidence cannot be established throughout Central America by support for the counter-revolutionary forces in Nicaragua, or by the provision of military and financial aid to bands of mercenaries. Peace and confidence throughout the region can be achieved only through dialogue and negotiations between the United States of America and the legitimate Government of Nicaragua.

The action by the United States Administration in providing \$100 million in the form of military assistance and heavy weapons and training for the bands of mercenaries is in contradiction with the efforts of the Contadora Group and the Support Group. The actions by the United States Administration subvert the efforts to restore peace in Central America, which requires that all States refrain from furnishing military or material aid to the irregular forces.

It is not surprising that the United States Administration stands against the peoples struggling for freedom and self-determination. Nor is it surprising that the United States stands against the aspirations of peoples to freedom and independence. It has always stood against the will of peoples. It stands against the African peoples because it is at the side of the apartheid régime, to which it provides various kinds of assistance and support and with which it co-operates in various fields, including the nuclear field. How else can one explain the exercise by the United States of the right of veto in the Security Council whenever it is a question of condemning the apartheid régime or of imposing against it the sanctions provided for in the Charter?

(Mr. Al-Atassi, Syrian Arab
Republic)

Moreover, the United States harbours hostility for the Arab peoples and stands by the Zionist régime in occupied Palestine, to which it provides various kinds of weapons, including the most sophisticated war planes, and other types of financial and material assistance in accordance with the programme of strategic co-operation. How else can one explain the exercise by the United States of the right of veto whenever the question of Palestine or the question of the Middle East is before the Security Council?

The United States also stands against the peoples of Central America. The United States stands against the aspirations of the peoples of that region because it provides financial and military assistance to bands of mercenaries with the aim of destabilizing any Government that is not to its liking.

(Mr. Al-Atassi, Syrian Arab Republic)

It is now an open secret that the actions of the United States Administration constitute an explicit violation of the provisions of the United Nations Charter, the principles of international law and every tenet of ethical and civilized conduct. The United States bears an important share of the responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It does not become a super-Power like the United States to resort to domination, hegemony and, in some instances, sabotage, or to implement a policy of terrorism and aggression. With regard to the present complaint by Nicaragua, it is incumbent upon the Security Council to consider such behaviour and to put a halt to it. Unless the Council proceeds in that manner, it will lose credibility with world public opinion.

Finally, the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its full solidarity with the people and Government of Nicaragua and expresses its pride in the struggle of that heroic people. We regard their battle for independence and liberty as that of all peoples struggling for their right to live free from any foreign intervention, hegemony and domination.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic for the kind words he addressed to the presidency.

Mr. TSVEIKOV (Bulgaria) (interpretation from French): I should like first to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the prestigious and responsible post of President of the Security Council for the month of July. Aware as I am of your diplomatic experience and personal qualities, I am certain that you will use all your skills in seeing that the Security Council successfully performs the great tasks confronting it. I should also like to pay a tribute to the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, Ambassador Blaise Rabetafika, for the competence and authority he displayed as President of the Security Council during the month of June.

(Mr. Tavetkov, Bulgaria)

The Security Council has been requested to consider urgently the dangerous tension that prevails in the Central American region as the result of a policy of increasingly overt and direct pressure upon Nicaragua that is being systematically pursued by the Administration of the United States of America. The development of events over the past few days rightly gives rise to profound concern within the international community over the fate of peace and security in Central America and in the world at large.

The decision taken by the United States House of Representatives to grant \$100 million in military and financial assistance to the counter-revolutionary bandits acting against the legitimate Government and the people of Nicaragua, as well as the United States rejection and defiance of the decision handed down by the International Court of Justice in that matter, leaves no doubt about the adventurist plans and intentions of the American Administration with regard to independent and sovereign Nicaragua, a Member of the United Nations and of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

As the President of the Republic of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, stated on 28 June in Managua:

"In fact, the United States Government has declared war on Nicaragua."

The facts indisputably demonstrate that Washington, acting contrary to the norms of universally recognized international law and the principles set forth in the United Nations Charter, will stop at nothing to play out in Nicaragua its "Grenada scenario". The threat of a future escalation of military tension is a real one; it could eventually lead to irreversible and uncontrollable processes and to conflagration in the region. It constitutes a genuine threat to international peace and security.

(Mr. Tsvetkov, Bulgaria)

The legitimate aspirations of the peoples of that region to peace, independence, national development and social justice, are being blocked by the obstinate attempts of the United States to prevent by force the development of social, political and historic processes and to trample underfoot the sacred right of peoples to self-determination. However, as history has shown, such actions have more than once been doomed to failure.

The attempts to find a so-called humanitarian justification for interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign country, for imposing diktat and political change through the use of force - attempts veiled by demagogic slogans, such as "democracy" and "liberty", mislead no one. They merely prove that the progressive changes in Nicaragua are clearly not to the liking of reactionary and militarist circles in the United States. These changes hinder the militarists' aggressive plans for regional hegemony, stand in the way of their long-term strategy of maintaining international tension and opposing progressive forces in the world, and impede their neo-globalist ambitions on a world scale.

The responsibility for the deteriorating explosive situation in Central America lies entirely with the Government of the United States, which, ever since the victory of the revolution in Nicaragua and the establishment of a new power in that country, has been pursuing a policy of pressure, blackmail and threats, sabotage, economic boycott and overt or covert aggression. Washington's attempts to shift responsibility onto the Government of Nicaragua and its policy for the lack of progress towards a settlement remain vain and fruitless. Facts demonstrate the contrary.

Nicaragua has stated on many occasions and has shown in practice its sincere desire to normalize the situation in Central America through peaceful political and diplomatic means, both multilateral and bilateral.

(Mr. Tavetkov, Bulgaria)

In 1984, the Government of Nicaragua showed its willingness to accept fully and to sign immediately the Act on Peace and Co-operation in Central America of 7 September of that year that was drawn up by the Contadora Group. The adoption of that document, which would ensure a peaceful settlement of the situation in the region, was blocked by the United States, which clearly opposed such a regional arrangement.

(Mr. Tavetkov, Bulgaria)

On 17 June last Mr. Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua, officially expressed his Government's positive response to the appeal of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group and the Support Group for a speedy conclusion to the process of negotiation on establishing peace in the region. He responded in the same way to Security Council document S/18175 distributed on the same occasion and in his very well-argued statement here yesterday.

By its willingness to sign a regional agreement, Nicaragua, in fact, has given a constructive response to the Contadora countries and to the appeal of the international community for the peaceful settlement of the crisis in Central America. The response of the United States is known: \$100 million more for military assistance for the counter-revolutionaries, the nucleus of which are the wretched remains of Somoza's criminal bands and personal guard. That revealing decision was adopted by a majority in the House.

Naturally, the decision could not but provoke strong condemnation and give rise to a justifiable reaction on the part of the international community and world public opinion. As the representative of India said in his statement yesterday, the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries condemns the assistance voted against Nicaragua as:

"... a violation of the sovereignty and political independence of Nicaragua, a non-aligned country, as well as of the principles and objectives of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Charter of the United Nations."

(S/PV.2694, p. 48)

(Mr. Tavetkov, Bulgaria)

The representatives of the Contadora Group have taken a similar attitude to the decision of the United States Administration.

As for the People's Republic of Bulgaria, my country has always supported the struggle of the people of Nicaragua to defend their national independence and the right to determine alone, without foreign interference, the path of their social, economic and political development. The Bulgarian people expresses its warm sympathy and fraternal solidarity to the Nicaraguan people.

My country is in favour of a peaceful settlement of the disturbing situation in Central America through negotiations and a constructive approach. In this respect, we welcome the efforts of the Contadora Group and the assistance given to it by the Support Group. We consider that the Contadora Group can and must play a more active role in order to achieve a comprehensive and lasting settlement to the crisis in this region.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Bulgaria for his kind words addressed to the presidency.

The next speaker is the representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. VONGSAY (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (interpretation from French): Sir, I should like, first of all, to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July. I am convinced that under your wise and competent leadership the work of the Council will be crowned with success. I should certainly be remiss if I failed to pay a tribute to your predecessor, Mr. Blaise Rabetafika, Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, for the exemplary manner in which he discharged his heavy responsibilities last month.

(Mr. Vongsay, Lao People's
Democratic Republic)

My delegation would like to thank the Council for giving us this opportunity to participate in the debate on this flagrant violation of the sovereignty and political independence of a Central American State, the Republic of Nicaragua, and therefore a serious threat to peace and security in that very sensitive part of the world.

My delegation listened very carefully and with much sympathy to the statement made here yesterday by Mr. D'Escoto Brockmann, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua. As a number of other speakers have pointed out, this is the eleventh time in less than three years that a representative of the Government of Nicaragua has complained to this Council about the reprehensible actions of the American Government against his country.

The granting of \$100 million in military assistance by the United States House of Representatives for the contras, that gang of Somozist counter-revolutionaries trained and armed to the teeth by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), is a new stage in the escalation of aggression against the People's Republic of Nicaragua. Last year the American Administration gave them approximately \$27 million, in the euphemistic guise of "humanitarian assistance".

My country has had occasion to condemn these acts of armed provocation, aggression and destabilization, which have taken the form of a total trade embargo and the mining of Nicaraguan ports. We did so last April at the ministerial meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries in New Delhi, where my delegation unequivocally condemned an imperialist super-Power and permanent member of the Security Council. The critics of the people's Sandinist revolution have constantly claimed that the present régime in Nicaragua is the basic cause of tension and instability in Central America. But the international

(Mr. Vongsay, Lao People's
Democratic Republic)

community has constantly rejected such lies. The truth is that the American Government cannot accept the Sandinist régime's refusal to bow to its will.

What Nicaragua wants is peace in justice and dignity and not a "Pax Americana". Nicaragua wants respect for its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. It wants to live in peace, in friendship and in co-operation with all countries and all its neighbours, including the United States of America.

Instead of disrupting the noble efforts of the members of the Contadora Group and the Lima Support Group, the United States Government ought to accede to the appeal of the international community to contribute to a just and lasting solution to the crisis in Central America. The United States Government should waste no time in renewing contact with the legitimate Government of Nicaragua in order to normalize relations between them. Indeed, in its resolution 562 (1985) of 10 May 1985, the Security Council called upon the two countries to do just that.

(Mr. Vongsay, Lao People's
Democratic Republic)

My country notes with regret and bitterness that during the International Year of Peace certain members of the Security Council, particularly a super-Power with the right of veto, have undertaken actions against other sovereign countries contrary to the elementary principles of international law and the United Nations Charter. The Lao Government and people wish to reaffirm their support and unswerving solidarity for the courageous Government and people of the Republic of Nicaragua in their tireless struggle to consolidate the fruits of the Sandinist revolution.

That is the basic policy of our Government, adopted from the establishment of the new régime in Laos, and it was clearly set forth in the important statement made on 2 December last in Vientiane by Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane, Secretary-General of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and President of the Council of Ministers of Laos, on the occasion of the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the proclamation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, as follows:

(spoke in English)

"We have always stood on the side of the peoples of Nicaragua, El Salvador and other Latin American countries, the peoples of Namibia, Palestine, Lebanon and other Arab countries who valiantly struggle against imperialism, colonialism, old and new, apartheid, and Zionism for independence, freedom and self-determination.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for the kind words he addressed to the presidency.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list for this meeting. The next meeting of the Security Council to continue consideration of the item on its agenda will take place this afternoon, at 3 o'clock. I appeal to the members of the Council kindly to exercise punctuality to the best of their ability.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.