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of the preliminary list\*

THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE  
AND SECURITY AND PEACE INITIATIVES

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING  
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES

Letter dated 2 April 1985 from the representatives of Costa Rica and  
Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Joint Declaration (see annex) signed in the city of David, Republic of Panama, on 19 March 1985, by His Excellency Mr. Don Luis Alberto Monge, President of the Republic of Costa Rica, and His Excellency Dr. Nicolás Ardito Barletta, President of the Republic of Panama, at the conclusion of the official visit paid by the Costa Rican Head of State to the Republic of Panama on 18 and 19 March 1985.

\* A/40/50 and Corr.1.

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English

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We request the Secretary-General to have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly under items 21, 72, 84, 132 and 133 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Jorge A. MONTERO  
Ambassador  
Alternate Permanent Representative  
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the  
Mission of Costa Rica to the  
United Nations

(Signed) Leonardo A. KAM  
Ambassador  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the  
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ANNEX

JOINT DECLARATION

Accepting the kind invitation of His Excellency Dr. Nicolás Ardito Barletta, President of the Republic of Panama, His Excellency Mr. Don Luis Alberto Monge, President of the Republic of Costa Rica, accompanied by a high-level delegation, paid an official visit to the Republic of Panama, which took place in the city of David, Chiriquí Province, on 18 and 19 March 1985.

It was a propitious occasion for the Heads of State to renew the links between the two countries, characterized by fraternal friendship, mutual understanding and democratic ideals, and to reiterate their attachment to the principles of freedom, respect for human rights, self-determination of peoples, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, ideological pluralism, the peaceful settlement of disputes and co-operation for economic and social development - lasting human values respect for which characterizes the Governments and peoples of Costa Rica and Panama.

In the context of the talks, they examined the complex international political and economic situation, the Central American crisis and the efforts of the Contadora Group, and especially bilateral relations, both at the general level and in relation to the frontier area.

In focusing their attention on an analysis of the international economic situation, the leaders concurred that protectionism, tariff barriers and the deteriorating terms of trade hampered international trade, and they reiterated the urgent need to impart momentum to the negotiations for the establishment of a new international economic order.

They agreed to emphasize that co-operation between the industrialized countries and the developing countries should be expanded in order to permit the economic revival of the latter, which would have a beneficial impact on the economic and social progress of the peoples of the world.

They expressed the hope that, in the renegotiation of the external debt of the Latin American countries, the commercial banks and the international financial institutions would grant greater facilities to enable the Governments to comply with their credit obligations without prejudice to the well-being of their peoples.

The Presidents indicated their satisfaction at the development and deepening of the democratic processes in Latin America, through which the participation of peoples in the taking of decisions affecting the nations of the continent was strengthened. In that connection, they expressed their pleasure at the rise to power of democratic Governments through electoral processes.

After discussing the complex Central American situation, they concurred that the crisis through which the region was passing had its roots in secular problems relating to social, economic and political imbalance caused by its emergence in

recent times, and aggravated by the unjust existing international economic order, which gave rise to imbalances in relations with the developing countries; those imbalances took the form of unequal trade, protectionist barriers, difficulties in acquiring funds to finance the programmes required for economic and social development, and fluctuating interest rates which clearly affected the economies of the region.

The Presidents were in agreement that the crisis in the Central American region should be approached not in the context of East-West confrontation, but from a Latin American standpoint. Consequently, they reaffirmed their conviction that dialogue and negotiation constituted a sine qua non in the search for a solution, being civilized and effective formulas for attaining a stable and lasting peace that would lead the region along the path of democracy, freedom, peaceful coexistence, mutual respect and economic and social progress. To that end, they commended the efforts of the Contadora Group, which, as a mediator and worthy alternative for solving the crisis, had opened channels of dialogue and political negotiation among the States of the area and in the course of two years of incessant and patient labours was on the threshold of achieving the restoration of peace.

The Heads of State expressed the hope that the Contadora Act on Peace and Co-operation in Central America would be signed as soon as possible, and exchanged ideas concerning the steps to be taken in the short term, as part of the negotiating process, with a view to the signing of that instrument and the implementation of the verification and control machinery needed in order to safeguard the region from the dangers threatening it, and with a view to laying permanent foundations for mutual confidence, peaceful coexistence, mutual respect and co-operation among the States of Central America.

The Presidents also concurred in reiterating that the solution could be found only if there was no outside interference that would disturb the conclusion of the peace process promoted by the Contadora Group; they therefore appealed to the countries having links with and interests in the Central American area to refrain from making statements or taking action that might jeopardize the culmination of the peace effort. On the other hand, they expressed their gratitude for the support furnished by the international community and by international organizations to the Central American countries and to the Contadora Group, and urged them to redouble their efforts and their co-operation so that the peace objectives which they sought would be attained promptly.

Both leaders commended the co-operation in the border area, in which there were in course of execution national projects and programmes that furthered the overall development of that area and testified to the spirit, brotherhood and co-operation that inspired the peoples of the two States.

In that connection, they reviewed the Agreement concerning Frontier Co-operation signed by the two countries, and placed special emphasis on the progress made in the various joint projects and programmes being implemented in that field. They expressed their satisfaction at the successes achieved, and considered that it would be appropriate to expand those programmes with a view to

the joint execution of other activities that redounded to the benefit of both peoples, especially in the border area.

The two Presidents reviewed reports on the results of the various activities undertaken in pursuance of the Agreement concerning Frontier Co-operation, such as the linking of the electric power grids, which was to be completed that year. The building and improvement of roads had linked population centres in the two countries. In the field of agriculture, they noted with satisfaction the progress achieved with regard to animal and plant health. They also evaluated efforts made in the fields of health and education.

In that context, both leaders expressed their desire to strengthen joint programmes for the development of the border regions and approved a programme of work emphasizing activities in various sectors.

With respect to agriculture, they agreed to give effect to the agreements signed between the ministries concerned, provide institutional support for those agreements, set a schedule for the activities and formalize a programme for dealing with animal and plant health problems and beekeeping through training and monitoring schemes. In addition, the two ministries agreed to provide support for the marketing of the surpluses produced at various times of the year in both countries and reiterated their support for the agreement on a "Friendship Park".

On the subject of occupational training, the Presidents took note with satisfaction of the close relations of co-operation between the National Apprenticeship Institute (INA) of Costa Rica and the National Occupational Training Institute (INAFORP) of Panama, and reaffirmed their support for the various programmes and specific projects provided for under the Technical Co-operation Agreement between the two institutions. The President of Panama also expressed his support for the efforts of the Government of Costa Rica to establish a technical institute to support occupational training, with headquarters in San José, which would be regional in scope.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the excellent trade relations that had existed between the two countries over the years and reaffirmed their resolve to promote even closer relations. Towards that end, they instructed the competent ministers to explore new forms of exchange and co-operation through the establishment of a programme, to be carried out immediately, giving special attention to increasing trade in general, the review and updating of the Treaty on Free Trade and Preferences, the solution of problems relating to the carriage of goods, and the search for other areas of co-operation which would strengthen their mutual relations, in the broadest spirit of equity. In that connection, both countries would initiate programmes of co-operation and assistance with the aim of eliminating smuggling in the border area.

The Presidents expressed their satisfaction at achievements in the field of health in the border areas of both countries. They reaffirmed the necessity of joint efforts for the benefit of their populations through the implementation of existing agreements on integrated health services, with special emphasis on preventive and curative aspects.

On the subject of transport, the two leaders agreed to entrust to the Ministries of Public Works and Transportation of both countries the preparation and implementation of projects for improving the road network in the border area, the updating of roadmaps for the border area, the establishment of a bilateral commission responsible for drawing up a programme for the transport sector, and studying the feasibility of leasing a ferry for the province of Bocas del Toro.

The two Heads of State agreed to promote activities in the field of community development, reactivating the technical co-operation agreement on institutional improvement between the Department of Community Development of Panama (DIGEDECOP) and the National Department of Community Development of Costa Rica (DINADECO), and to pursue the programmes for town development along the Panama-Costa Rica border drawn up in 1981.

Lastly, the Presidents expressed their interest in developing joint activities in the fields of tourism, urban development in the border area, agro-industry, mining, and educational and cultural exchanges.

With the aim of following up the programmes and projects developed in connection with the Agreement concerning Frontier Co-operation, the two Presidents announced their decision to hold quarterly meetings for follow-up and evaluation, to be co-ordinated by their respective Ministries of Planning. At the same time, they called upon international financial institutions and co-operation agencies to contribute towards the financing of programmes and projects aimed at improving the border areas of the two countries.

The President of Costa Rica reaffirmed his support for the just demand of the Panamanian Government and people that the letter and spirit of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties should be complied with, which treaties were the result of Panama's struggle for generations to recover its chief natural resource. He praised the progress made by the Republic of Panama with respect to the implementation of the Treaties, advocated absolute respect for the permanent neutrality of the Panama Canal and made an appeal to the members of the international community to accede to the Additional Protocol to the treaty on the neutrality of the Panama Canal.

The President of Costa Rica emphasized the importance of the talks held with the President of Panama and expressed gratitude for the attention and honours bestowed on him and his entourage during his visit. He renewed the invitation to the President of Panama to visit Costa Rica at a time to be agreed through the diplomatic channel.

Done at David, Republic of Panama, on 19 March 1985.

(Signed) LUIS ALBERTO MONGE  
President of the Republic  
of Costa Rica

(Signed) NICOLAS ARDITO BARLETTA  
President of the Republic  
of Panama

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