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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 STRENGTHENING OF
GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES
BETWEEN STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL

Fortieth year

Letter dated 23 July 1985 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Panama to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General.

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the communiqué issued by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group at the conclusion of the meeting held at Contadora Island, Republic of Panama, on 21 and 22 July 1985 (see annex).

I request you to circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 21, 72, 132 and 133 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Leonardo KAM
Ambassador

Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Mission

* A/40/150.

ANNEX

Communiqué dated 22 July 1985 issued by the Ministers
for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela met at Contadora Island on 21 and 22 July 1985 for the purpose of assessing, in the light of recent events in the Central American region, the present status of the negotiating process which their Governments have been promoting since January 1983.

They reaffirmed the validity of the original purpose of developing a diplomatic action which, based on strict respect for the principles of non-intervention and the self-determination of peoples, will enable the Central American Governments to settle their differences through dialogue and political negotiation in order to lay the firm foundations for peaceful coexistence.

They also recognized the urgent need for the Central American Governments to arrive at the specific agreements to which they committed themselves in the Document of Objectives of September 1983. Notable among those objectives are: to promote détente and put an end to situations of conflict in the area, to ensure strict compliance with the rules of international law, to respect and ensure the exercise of human rights, to adopt measures conducive to the establishment or improvement of democratic, representative and pluralistic systems, to promote national reconciliation efforts wherever deep divisions have taken place within society, to create political conditions for guaranteeing the security, integrity and sovereignty of the States of the region, to halt the arms race, to prohibit the installation in their territories of foreign military bases or any other form of external military intervention, to reduce, with a view to eliminating, the presence of foreign military advisers, to prevent and eliminate the illegal traffic in arms, to prevent the use of territory for any military or logistical support intended to destabilize the Governments of the region, to deal with the problems arising out of the flows of refugees, to put economic and social development programmes into practice, to strengthen the process of Central American integration and to negotiate financing and external technical assistance for national development efforts.

In accordance with the foregoing and in the light of the dangerous deterioration of the regional situation, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group reaffirm their conviction that actions contrary to the commitments of the Document of Objectives not only make impossible a negotiated solution of the Central American crisis but, in addition, damage the indispensable framework for peaceful coexistence between the States of the area.

To strengthen diplomatic negotiations and deal with the aggravation of the crisis, the Contadora Group will undertake the following actions:

1. Contadora Act for Peace and Co-operation in Central America:

With the purpose of finalizing the negotiation of the Contadora Act for Peace and Co-operation in Central America and proceeding at once to the signature of that legal instrument, the Deputy Ministers for Foreign

Affairs will visit the Central American countries during the next few days in order to obtain their views and comments on the issues which are still pending - the chapter on security and other supplementary arrangements - for the purpose of formulating the final text of the Act.

2. Actions for détente:

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs reaffirmed the need to create an atmosphere favourable to negotiation which will demonstrate with full clarity the political will of the Central American Governments through a collection of simultaneous actions aimed at avoiding the risks of confrontation. That need has been recognized by these Governments and includes an effort of good faith and determination to normalize their bilateral relations, particularly relations between neighbouring States. It is essential to stop the arms race, intimidating acts of force, foreign military presence in its various modalities, and support for irregular forces. At the same time, measures should be taken for the consolidation and strengthening of democratic systems and the processes of national reconciliation which will make it possible to achieve popular participation on the bases of justice, freedom and democracy, in accordance with the commitment made in the Document of Objectives.

3. Relations between Costa Rica and Nicaragua:

In order to implement the 11 July 1985 resolution of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States, and in response to the wishes clearly expressed by the Presidents of Costa Rica and Nicaragua in their recent exchange of letters, the Contadora Group invites the Governments of Nicaragua and Costa Rica to initiate, in Panama, during the first ten days of August, a dialogue designed to find effective and lasting solutions for the tensions in the frontier region between the two countries, within the framework of the Contadora Group's negotiating process.

4. Dialogue of Manzanillo:

The dialogue and understanding between the Governments of the United States and Nicaragua constitute an important factor in the regional peace-making effort. To that end, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs issued an appeal for the resumption of the bilateral talks at Manzanillo designed to bring about a political understanding between the parties.

5. International organizations:

In compliance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly, the Contadora Group will submit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in September a detailed report on the status of their diplomatic actions. It will, furthermore, proceed to propose the inclusion of the Central American item in the agenda of the General Assembly for consideration at its regular session.

Similarly, it will send the appropriate communications to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States and to the Secretary General of that regional body.

6. Latin American support:

The Contadora Group values highly the expressions of solidarity proffered by the Latin American community of nations and its determination to participate as actively as possible in the work being promoted by the Contadora Group through the establishment of a political support machinery that will facilitate the success of the Group's action.

The Contadora Ministers for Foreign Affairs express once again their gratitude for the confidence of the member States of the international community in the actions of the Contadora Group and their support for the peaceful and negotiated settlement of conflicts in Central America. The international consensus proves that the action of the Contadora Group is worth while and viable, while at the same time unequivocally recording the moral and political responsibility of all the Governments involved in the regional conflict.

The Contadora Group, upon concluding its meeting at the place where this Latin American political initiative originated in January 1983, declares that it will continue resolutely making its contribution to the promotion of peace and co-operation in Central America. Nevertheless, the resolution of conflicts depends on the will and decisiveness of the Central American Governments, which have the responsibility for reaching agreements that will make possible political stability, economic and social development, and orderly, peaceful and secure coexistence in the region. It is therefore imperative to create the climate of confidence necessary for arriving at political understandings and overcoming obstacles to negotiation, within a process of reciprocal concessions which, without sacrificing the essential and legitimate interests of each nation, will ensure harmonious and respectful relations between the Central American countries.
