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

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-eighth year

Letter dated 27 September 1983 from the Permanent Representative of  
Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from the Government of Costa Rica, I have the honour to request you to have the attached Declaration circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 66, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Fernando ZUMBADO  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative  
of Costa Rica  
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Declaration of the Government of Costa Rica

The address delivered to the United Nations General Assembly by Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, Co-ordinator of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, is a cause for surprise and pessimism. In his statement, Commander Ortega distorted to his own advantage the true facts about Central America and jeopardized all peace efforts in the region.

The representative of the Government of Nicaragua has made false accusations against Costa Rica. Commander Ortega asserted in his statement that, following the triumph of the Sandinist Revolution, "the United States military presence in the region (Central America) has been on the increase, openly in El Salvador and Honduras and covertly in Costa Rica". Let it be absolutely clear that, as far as Costa Rica is concerned, Commander Ortega is lying. His allegation is totally unfounded.

Commander Ortega's verbal aggressiveness comes as a surprise since, fewer than 20 days ago, the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua, Ambassador Javier Chamorro Mora, stated to the plenary meeting of the Movement of Non-aligned Countries on 9 September: "... we have continued to make efforts with the Government of Costa Rica to ease existing problems and tensions. The bilateral mixed commission made up of high officials of the two Governments met recently in the port of San Juan del Sur in Nicaragua, and satisfactory agreements were reached which, to a certain extent, have begun to bear fruit."

Commander Ortega's verbal aggressiveness is even more surprising when one considers that the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, Victor Hugo Tinoco Fonseca, speaking in the Security Council on 13 September, described the relationship between our countries as "constructive and mature" and acknowledged that they engaged in frequent dialogue.

The scorn expressed by Commander Ortega for the Central American Governments represented in the United Nations gives grounds for pessimism over the future of the peace efforts that have been undertaken. Nicaragua's rulers seem determined to deal a final blow to the generous efforts made by Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela in the framework of the "Contadora" negotiations. Only thus can one explain the fact that the Commander devoted no more than four lines of his speech to those negotiations, which have earned the gratitude of Central Americans. Only thus can one explain the conditions which Nicaragua's rulers are seeking to impose and which go beyond the scope and possibilities of the Contadora Group. Only thus can one explain why Nicaragua's rulers have chosen to undermine Contadora by promoting a discussion within the United Nations. Only thus can one explain why, while discussions are going on in the Contadora framework on procedures for enabling the peoples to express their will, Nicaragua's rulers are seeking in the United Nations to impose their solution to the Salvadorian crisis. Lastly, only thus can one explain why peace initiatives have only secondary importance in the item which the Government of Nicaragua seeks to have included in the agenda.

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Costa Rica is opposed to the inclusion in the agenda of an item concerning Central America. It was to strengthen a flexible and informal regional mechanism, the Contadora Group, that Costa Rica agreed to withdraw the request it had made in OAS for international observers. It was the Contadora nations which Costa Rica asked to verify its neutrality. It is in the framework of Contadora that there has been a promising dialogue among Central American Governments. Contadora enjoys the support of fraternal peoples with whom we share history, culture and ideals. However, Nicaragua's rulers seem to be claiming that it is peoples far removed from our region who have embarked on an impracticable course which dooms the Contadora negotiations to failure and prepares the way for catastrophe for the peoples of Central America. Costa Rica will do nothing that would make the prophecies of Nicaragua's rulers come to pass.

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