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LETTER DATED 8 APRIL 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF EL SALVADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I am submitting to you for circulation as a Security Council document the present letter, containing the views of my Government in the light of the debate which took place in the Council as a result of the letter from the Government of Nicaragua circulated as document S/15651.

1. First of all, my Government wishes to state very plainly that the debate showed the existence of a situation of generalized conflict in Central America.
2. That situation of generalized conflict in Central America is, by virtue of the events which are occurring or impending, of a necessarily regional character.
3. The regional nature of that situation encompasses individual issues, just as the whole comprises the parts, but not vice versa.
4. The approach to be adopted must therefore be multilateral negotiations, which should cover the following subjects: limitation of the arms race; controls to eliminate the arms traffic in the Central American region; strengthening of commercial and economic relations among the countries of the region; and strengthening of democratic, pluralist and participatory institutions in the area.

In order to achieve the above-mentioned objective, there should be a regional dialogue, with no exclusions, as stated by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador in his address to the Council on 28 March 1983.

Inasmuch as there now exists a concrete initiative to that end in the form of a draft resolution submitted to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS), which is the appropriate regional forum, my Government supports that initiative as a serious and viable effort for the cause of peace in the Central American region.

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In conclusion, El Salvador feels obliged to emphasize that any other approach which may be suggested and which does not attempt to encompass all problems, such as the arms build-up in the region and the arms traffic in the area, would be not only inadequate and inappropriate but also useless and unrealistic because, as a matter of cause and effect, any focus of destabilization and tension will infect the entire area.

(Signed) Mauricio ROSALES  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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