



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/39/604
S/16796
23 October 1984
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-ninth session
Agenda item 25
THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: THREATS
TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND
PEACE INITIATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-ninth year

Letter dated 23 October 1984 from the Representatives of
Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela to the United
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the joint communiqué issued by Mr. Augusto Ramírez Ocampo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Mr. Bernardo Sepúlveda Amor, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Mr. Isidro Morales Paúl, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Venezuela, and Mr. Oydén Ortega Durán, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Panama, at the conclusion of the meeting held at Madrid, Spain on 17 October 1984.

We request you to arrange to have the text of the joint communiqué distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 25, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Carlos ALBAN-HOLGUIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Colombia

(Signed) Porfirio MUÑOZ-LEDO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Mexico

(Signed) José F. SUCRE-FIGARELLA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Venezuela

(Signed) Leonardo A. KAM B.
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative
of Panama

ANNEX

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

Madrid, Spain, 17 October 1984

Augusto Ramírez de Ocampo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Bernardo Sepúlveda Amor, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Isidro Morales Paúl, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Venezuela, and Oydén Ortega, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Panama, met today at Madrid, on the occasion of the award of the 1984 Prince of Asturias Prize to the Contadora Group for the latter's efforts to avoid, through the diplomatic channel and political negotiation, the intensification and escalation of the conflicts besetting Central America. They took advantage of that valuable opportunity to consider the reactions of the five Central American countries to the revised version of the Contadora Act on Peace and Co-operation in Central America, submitted to the Governments of the region on 7 September.

The Ministers examined recent developments, at both the regional and international levels, in the diplomatic process that they had promoted in fulfilment of an unavoidable obligation. They noted that there had been a very significant strengthening of widespread international support for the continuation of the Contadora Group's peace initiatives and for the signature of the Contadora Act on Peace and Co-operation in Central America in its revised version. In that connection, reference was made to the meeting held last month in San José, Costa Rica, between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the European Economic Community, Spain, Portugal, the five Central American countries and the members of the Contadora Group. Reference was also made to the debates at the thirty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, at which representatives of countries of all continents explicitly expressed their fervent hope that a negotiated solution would bring an end to the regional crisis as well as their support for the efforts of the Contadora Group to achieve that objective. The Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries and the Group of 77 also spoke in similar terms.

The Ministers underscored the importance of the submission of the revised version of the Contadora Act on Peace and Co-operation in Central America to the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the supreme international forum entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. At the same time, they expressed their approval of the comprehensive and extremely positive report submitted by Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar to the General Assembly and the Security Council, underscoring recent events in the region, as well as the progress made and the need to complete diplomatic negotiations.

The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Central American Governments for having expressed their readiness to sign the Contadora Act as soon as possible. The five Governments of the region put forward their positions prior to 15 October, the deadline established for that purpose at the most recent Joint

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Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs. The comments made will undoubtedly be very useful in concluding the current stage of the process, through the finalization of the legal instrument proposed. All the above took place in accordance with the objective defined at the Joint Meeting of 7 September 1984 in Panama.

On the basis of the above-mentioned factors, the Ministers agreed that it was appropriate to incorporate the comments made by the Central American countries in order to lend greater precision to the statements without modifying the balance achieved in the document.

The Ministers observed that the revised version of the Act was, strictly speaking, the outcome of a long, arduous and complex process of consultations and negotiation. They remarked that the essence of any negotiation required each side to yield to some extent, in the interests of a higher purpose, and stated that the Contadora Act would have to reconcile the positions and the interests of the five countries directly involved.

Some topics mentioned as open to clarification and modification were those referring to the machinery for verification and control of the commitments undertaken and their chronological implementation. Without intending to reopen substantive discussion or modify the assumptions and principles underlying the Contadora Act, the Contadora Ministers had undertaken joint action to assemble the comments that were consistent with the Contadora spirit.

The Ministers of the Contadora Group, on behalf of their respective Presidents, expressed gratitude for the distinction which the award to their countries of the 1984 Prince of Asturias Prize represented. They accepted it with deep appreciation and underscored that, above all, it would serve as a major stimulus to continue, in a firm and steadfast manner, the peace efforts in which the Group was engaged. Accordingly, they reaffirmed the readiness of their Governments to continue to work, in the spirit of fraternity and solidarity that had inspired them, to resolve the grave crisis besetting Central America.

The Ministers of the Contadora Group expressed special gratitude and appreciation to His Majesty Juan Carlos I for the honour that he had bestowed on them. They expressed their pleasure at having been received in audience by the President of the Spanish State, Felipe González, and recorded their appreciation for the hospitality and friendship extended to them by the Spanish people and authorities through their Minister for Foreign Affairs.
