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

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 11 October 1990 from the Permanent Representatives
of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua to
the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the final document signed by the Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Central America at the second meeting of the Security Commission established under the Esquipulas II Agreement, held in San Salvador, El Salvador, on 12 and 13 September 1990 (see annex), and request you to have it distributed as an official document of the General Assembly under items 28 and 56.

(Signed) Cristián TATTENBACH
Permanent Representative of
Costa Rica to the United Nations

(Signed) Ricardo CASTAÑEDA CORNEJO
Permanent Representative of
El Salvador to the United Nations

(Signed) Francisco VILLAGRAN DE LEON
Permanent Representative of
Guatemala to the United Nations

(Signed) Roberto FLORES BERMUDEZ
Permanent Representative of
Honduras to the United Nations

(Signed) Roberto MAYORGA CORTES
Permanent Representative of Nicaragua
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Document adopted by the Security Commission established under the Esquipulas II Agreement at its second meeting, held in San Salvador on 12 and 13 September 1990

The Security Commission met in San Salvador, Republic of El Salvador, on 12 and 13 September 1990 for the purpose of continuing the work begun in San José, Costa Rica.

I

In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the Central American Presidents under the Guatemala Procedure and the Antigua Declaration, and pursuant to the agreements adopted at San José, Costa Rica, on 31 July 1990, the Security Commission considers there is a need to strengthen the climate of confidence among all the Central American States in order to facilitate the consolidation of regional peace, internal democratization and reconciliation, and to that end, agree to recommend that the Governments of the area take the following measures:

Express to the Secretary-General of the United Nations their appreciation for his efforts to ensure the success of the mission of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), and request him to make the necessary arrangements to extend the mandate of ONUCA and to strengthen its organizational and operational structure, with a view to ensuring more effective verification of strict compliance with the commitments made under the procedure for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America, which relate to the termination of aid for irregular forces and subversive movements and to the non-use of territory to attack other States, in the light of the fact that the Security Commission, having examined the situation in the region, emphasized that the continuation of armed conflicts in several of their countries and of the arms traffic in the region is contrary to the spirit and letter of the Esquipulas process and to the aspirations for peace and development of the Central American peoples;

Continue to support the talks between sectors of Guatemalan society and the Unión Revolucionaria Nacionalista de Guatemala (URNG) being promoted by the National Reconciliation Commission of Guatemala and supported by the Guatemalan Government;

Continue to support the dialogue between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) being conducted under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, aimed at achieving a peaceful and democratic settlement of the armed conflict in that country, the early cessation of hostilities, the demobilization of the irregular forces, and the implementation in all its aspects of the Agreement on Human Rights signed by the two parties in San José, Costa Rica;

Issue an earnest appeal to the irregular forces and subversive movements operating in the region to cease their violent and threatening actions so that dialogue and national reconciliation may proceed in an atmosphere of peace, enabling them to be integrated into political life;

Take the necessary steps to improve the exchange of information in the security zone with a view to combating the arms traffic and strengthening frontier control;

Prepare, with the assistance of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and of the Organization of American States (OAS) and friendly countries, immediate joint action aimed at solving the problem of mined areas;

Maintain programmes of visits that would promote closer bonds of friendship between the military and security forces of the area, and establish a mechanism for co-ordination and continuous and effective communication in order to avoid discord that might give rise to crisis situations and affect relations among the Central American States.

II

Pursuant to the decision taken at the meeting in San José, Costa Rica, the Commission hereby agrees:

To set up a technical sub-commission for the purpose of drawing up and submitting to this Commission a draft format or model for conducting inventories of the military installations, personnel and weapons of the military and security forces of the Central American countries, and also of proposing a preliminary scheme for elaborating a scale of equivalence; the sub-commission shall consist of no more than three delegates appointed by each country and may receive technical assistance from the Secretariats of the United Nations and the Organization of American States; it shall meet from 15 October in Guatemala City and submit its report to the Security Commission at its next meeting;

To recommend to the Governments of the region that they support the work being done in the context of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva to draw up a convention prohibiting the development, production, acquisition and use of deadly chemical weapons;

To consider and define at its next meeting the criteria to be taken into account in establishing each country's military needs based on its actual situation, with a view to achieving a reasonable balance or proportional overall equivalence in the region;

To consider and define at its next meeting the mechanism for verifying the inventories and maximum limits established.

III

In order to attain the goals it has set, this Commission feels it is important to be able to count on the co-operation offered by the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States and accepted by this Commission at its first meeting.

At this juncture, the Commission requests technical assistance in the implementation of the decisions adopted at this meeting and instructs the temporary secretariat of the Commission to forward the request officially to the Secretariats of the two organizations.

The Commission expresses its satisfaction once again at the participation of Panama in this meeting as an observer, thus demonstrating the political will of the Panamanian Government to share in the efforts being made to achieve peace and development in the region and thereby strengthen the democratic institutions of the Central American isthmus.

At the request of the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, the Commission has agreed, in view of the forthcoming primary elections in that country, to hold its next meeting in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

The delegations of Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama express their gratitude for the hospitality and generosity of the Government of the Republic of El Salvador, which contributed significantly to the success of the meeting.

(Signed) Hernán CASTRO HERNANDEZ
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
and Worship of Costa Rica

(Signed) Ricardo Orlando VALDIVIESO
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
of El Salvador

(Signed) Mario Hugo ROSAL
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Guatemala

(Signed) Jaime GUELL BOGRAN
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Honduras

(Signed) Ernesto LEAL SANCHEZ
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Nicaragua
