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

Letter dated 27 November 1990 from the Permanent Representative of  
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit herewith the text of the statement from the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the sharp deterioration of the internal political situation in El Salvador.

I request that the text of this letter and the attachment thereto be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 28 of its agenda.

(Signed) Yuliy M. VORONTSOV

Attachment

Statement by the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In recent days there has been a sharp deterioration in the internal political situation in El Salvador. In response to counter-insurgency military activity by government troops, units of the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) have launched the largest military operation since the beginning of the year, extending to many regions of the country. There have been many casualties, including civilians.

Underlying the escalation in the armed struggle are the serious disagreements between the parties which it has not yet been possible to resolve in the course of the talks that have been going on since April of this year between the Government and the insurgents with regard to a settlement of the civil conflict in El Salvador. Whatever the motives and tactical considerations of the parties, however, they cannot justify a new escalation of violence.

The logic of developments in El Salvador shows that attempts by either side to exert pressure through the use of force merely deadlock the negotiating process, increase mutual distrust, and destroy the positive groundwork laid in the course of the dialogue.

Such actions are repudiated by the international community, in which the resolve to facilitate a political breakthrough in the conflict is gaining strength. This determination was reflected in the adoption by consensus a few days ago in the United Nations General Assembly of a resolution in which this authoritative international organization unequivocally stated its support for a peaceful settlement in Central America.

In the Soviet Union it is hoped that the parties to the conflict will finally come to the understanding that the use of force in order to solve political problems is to no avail. Serious talks, mutual restraint, a readiness to compromise, and political realism are what is needed, in our view, for a prompt settlement of the crisis.

The Soviet Union is a consistent advocate of a peaceful solution in El Salvador, based on the understandings reached in Geneva and Caracas between the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN through the mediation of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. We call upon the parties to put an end to the bloodshed and to make new efforts with the aim of reaching political agreements and instituting a cease-fire as soon as possible.

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