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LETTER DATED 16 JANUARY 1980 FROM THE CHARGÉ D' AFFAIRES a.i. OF THE  
PERMAMENT MISSION OF COSTA RICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED  
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a press release received  
from my Government and to request that it be circulated as a document of the  
Security Council.

(Signed) Luis A. VARELA  
Ambassador,  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Annex

Press release from the Government of Costa Rica

1. The Government of Costa Rica wishes in this press release to express its deepest satisfaction at the prompt release of the Costa Rican Ambassador to El Salvador, Mr. Alejandro Alvarado Piza, and an administrative assistant of the Costa Rican Embassy, Mr. Santos David López, together with the Panamanian diplomatic officials.

It wishes also to express publicly its gratitude to the Government Junta of El Salvador and to the Venezuelan and Mexican ambassadors for their prompt and effective action to secure the release of the Costa Rican officials who had been seized and detained in the Panamanian Embassy in El Salvador.

2. The Government of the Republic of Costa Rica takes this opportunity to reiterate once again its fervent condemnation of all forms of terrorism (whether political, armed or intellectual). As far as our country is concerned, terrorism has become one of the basest forms of expression, contrary to every principle of human dignity and respect.

Costa Rica publicly rejects and condemns kidnapping, the taking of hostages, blackmail and sabotage as methods of struggle and political action.

Only unrestricted respect for every one of the human rights can make political pluralism and the strengthening of democracy viable and permanent.

The Government again reiterates its desire to see all the nations of the world work constantly towards respect for human rights and international law and act in concert to suppress terrorism in all its forms.

3. Following this second seizure of its diplomatic personnel, Costa Rica feels that it has a duty to express to the world its deep concern at the distress experienced by its Government, the hostages held captive and their families. It again reiterates its appeal to the United Nations to take all necessary steps to secure the prompt release of the hostages still held in the United States Embassy in Iran in an act which is one of the clearest and most flagrant violations of the international norms of humanitarian and diplomatic law.

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