



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/40/1091
S/17906
11 March 1986
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fortieth session
Agenda item 21
THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:
THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE
AND SECURITY AND PEACE INITIATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-first year

Letter dated 7 March 1986 from the representatives of Argentina,
Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you the annexed copy of the communiqué issued at the city of Punta del Este, Uruguay, on 28 February 1986 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group and the Support Group, with the request that this note and its annex should be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly at its fortieth session, under agenda item 21, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Carlos ALBAN-HOLGUIN
Permanent Representative of
Colombia

(Signed) Victor E. BEAUGE
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
Argentina

(Signed) Mario MOYA-PALENCIA
Permanent Representative of
Mexico

(Signed) George A. MACIEL
Permanent Representative of
Brazil

(Signed) David SAMUDIO, Jr.
Permanent Representative of
Panama

(Signed) Carlos ALZAMORA
Permanent Representative of
Peru

(Signed) Andrés AGUILAR
Permanent Representative of
Venezuela

(Signed) Julio C. LUPINACCI
Permanent Representative of
Uruguay

ANNEX

Communiqué issued on 28 February 1986 at Punta del Este
by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora
Group and the Support Group

1. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela, constituting the Contadora Group, and of Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay, members of the Support Group, met at Punta del Este, Uruguay, on 27 and 28 February 1986 for the purpose of considering the development of the Central American situation, follow up their proposals and continue developing the actions provided for in the "Caraballeda Message for Peace, Security and Democracy in Central America".
2. The Ministers noted with satisfaction that the international community has explicitly supported the Caraballeda Message and, in particular, that the Central American Governments themselves have expressed their commitment to it in the Guatemala Declaration. Thus, the Contadora process for bringing about regional peace has been given a new impetus, demonstrating that it is the only way to achieve a just and negotiated solution of the crisis.
3. The Ministers emphasized the importance of normalizing relations between the Governments of Costa Rica and Nicaragua and stressed the fruitful results of the meeting held by the two countries' Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs, with the participation of those of the Contadora Group, on 24 February at the city of Managua. In that connection, they expressed their support for such actions, which help to generate a climate of trust in the region and demonstrate the desire to bring peace to the area at an early date.
4. At the Punta del Este meeting a call was issued for a new meeting, which will be held on 12 March at San José, Costa Rica, and which will determine the arrangements for a "Civilian Commission for Observation, Prevention and Inspection" on the frontier between Nicaragua and Costa Rica, equipped with the necessary technical and logistical means for its functioning, with international participation. That action will be taken by the Contadora Group, with the co-operation of the Support Group.
5. The said Commission constitutes in practice a clear demonstration of the advances which are being made and which will no doubt be accomplished through consensus and Latin American unity. Latin America must and can settle its problems without foreign intervention.
6. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs agreed that the negotiation of the Contadora Act for Peace and Co-operation in Central America must be concluded immediately on the basis of the proposals made by the Contadora Group concerning the matters on which agreement has not yet been reached, in order to proceed to the prompt signing and entry into force of the Act. They also made it clear that the Caraballeda Message, far from being a substitute for the negotiation of that Act, helps to speed its entry into force.

7. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs emphasized, however, that all of the "lasting foundations for peace" mentioned in the Caraballeda Message must enter fully into force. Consequently, the efforts needed to initiate the actions provided for in that Message must be made. The actions referred to must be simultaneous in order to strengthen the mutual trust that is essential for achieving peace; a choice of some of them to the detriment of the others is unacceptable. It must be stressed that each of them is valid in itself. Therefore, none of them can be made contingent on others, since they constitute a political and legal obligation for each State.
8. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs repeated that the cessation of external aid to irregular forces and insurgent movements operating in the countries of the region is imperative for the restoration of the international legal order and represents a contribution which will benefit peace initiatives.
9. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs also issued an appeal for the indispensable negotiated solution of the internal conflicts being experienced by some countries of the region and pointed out how urgent it is that the Governments of those countries should take steps to promote genuine national reconciliation. In that connection, they reaffirmed their readiness to contribute, by whatever means are considered suitable, to the conclusion of the aforementioned processes.
10. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs expressed their satisfaction at the calling and the holding in the near future of the summit meeting of Central American Presidents, which will unquestionably help to strengthen the climate of understanding that will restore the trust essential to peace.
11. Furthermore, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs emphasized that the establishment of a Central American Parliament would help to achieve the aforementioned purposes, and in particular to deepen and render permanent the democratic processes which must be consolidated in each of the Central American countries.
12. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs decided to continue their peace initiatives and, to that end, they issue a cordial invitation to their colleagues of the five Central American States, with a view to analysing, at a meeting to be held during the second half of March at Contadora Island, the advances made and the new courses of action to be followed.
13. Lastly, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs stated that settling the Central American crisis means ensuring the peace, security and prosperity of the entire Latin American region. History teaches that any foreign intervention in Latin America, as well as any intervention by one country in the internal affairs of others, damages the international legal order and thereby gravely endangers peaceful coexistence between nations.
14. Democratic self-determination, territorial integrity and non-interference are the indispensable foundations for the solution of the present crisis in Central America and constitute irreplaceable conditions for our existence as free and independent nations.
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