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THIRD COMMITTEE  
Agenda item 100

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS

Letter dated 3 October 1986 from the Permanent Representative of  
Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On express instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of Resolution No. 111 of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Panama dated 30 September 1986 in which it endorses the representations and protests made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Government of the United States of America.

As you will note, the most recent representation made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama was motivated by the United States Senate's approval of an amendment put forward by Senator Jesse Helms which would make the enactment of a domestic legislative bill contingent upon an investigation of alleged human rights violations and drug and arms trafficking by the Panamanian Defence Forces.

My Government has strongly rejected that unwonted action which represents a clear intervention in my country's internal affairs and a violation of its national sovereignty.

For your information, I am attaching a copy of Note MPP NY-1218 of 26 September 1986 which the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama, Dr. Jorge Abadía Arias, sent to the Secretary of State of the United States, Mr. George Shultz, and in which Panama protests the approval of the above-mentioned amendment.

I would request you to have this letter and Resolution No. 111 of 30 September 1986 of the Council of Ministers distributed as official documents of the United Nations General Assembly under item 100 of the agenda of the forty-first session.

(Signed) David SAMUDIO, Jr.  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Resolution No. 111  
(30 September 1986)

endorsing the action of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

CONSIDERING:

That the Senate of the United States of America, on the proposal of United States Congressman Jesse Helms, made its domestic legislation contingent upon an investigation of alleged human rights violations and trafficking in drugs and arms by the Defence Forces of Panama in an unwonted act of intervention in the internal affairs of the Republic of Panama,

That such conduct is in sharp contrast with the continuing efforts of the Government of the Republic of Panama and its Defence Forces to suppress drug and arms traffic offences - with results that are visible - and that its policy in that respect has repeatedly earned the recognition of United States public agencies in charge of suppressing such illicit trafficking in their own country,

That the Senate's action immediately evoked a strong protest by the Panamanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Jorge Abadía, in a note dated 26 September 1986 which he personally delivered to the Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs, from which the following statement may usefully be quoted:

"With respect to the unfortunate amendment of Senator Helms, we wish to state that we are not afraid of any kind of investigation and to assert categorically that the Government of Panama has conducted and is continuing to conduct thorough investigations of drug trafficking and related offences which have yielded positive results in the struggle against that scourge of mankind. These facts are irrefutably borne out in official documents of the United States Government itself".

That the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in response to the campaign of slander mounted against our Government and our Defence Forces, went further in that note vigorously protesting the violation of the rules of international law, which prohibit intervention in the internal affairs of States, by asserting that:

"The Government and people of Panama are at the end of their patience; we cannot waste any more effort in the endless task of proving our innocence in order to counter a deliberate, rabid campaign of fabrications which have never been substantiated".

RESOLVES:

- Article 1. To endorse the representations and protests made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Government of the United States;
- Article 2. To reiterate its unqualified support for the Defence Forces of the Republic of Panama in their efforts to repress, control and wage open war against the drug traffic, which have been so effective as to have received warm recognition from the international community;
- Article 3. To maintain a state of vigilance against any acts which may irresponsibly undermine relations with other States and to promote all means indispensable to preserving the sovereignty, dignity and security of the Republic of Panama as an independent country in the face of interference in its internal affairs;
- Article 4. To inform international agencies and organizations and friendly Governments of what has transpired, which the Government of the Republic of Panama regards as a clear intervention in the internal affairs of our country, and to state publicly our intention to use all means available under public international law, if necessary, to counter this insult to the international order.

FOR PUBLICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Done in the city of Panama on 30 September 1986.

(Signed) Eric Arturo DELVALLE  
President of the Republic

Minister of Government and  
Justice

(Signed) Rodolfo CHIARI DE LEON

For the Minister for Foreign  
Affairs

(Signed) Jose Maria CABRERA J.

For the Minister of Education

(Signed) Jorge AROSEMENA

The Minister of Finance and  
The Treasury

(Signed) Hector Alexander

For the Minister of Public Works

(Signed) Rogelio DUMANOIR

The Minister of Agricultural  
Development

(Signed) Bruno GARISTO

For the Minister of Commerce  
and Industry

(Signed) Dorothy DE SING

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The Minister of Labour and  
Social Welfare

(Signed) Jorge Federico LEE

The Minister of Housing

(Signed) Roberto VELASQUEZ

The Minister of Health

(Signed) Carlos A. DE SEDAS, Jr.

For the Minister of Planning  
and Economic Policy

(Signed) Oviacildo HERRERA

(Signed) Nander A. PIMPI VELASQUEZ  
Minister for the Presidency

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