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

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-second year

Letter dated 22 June 1987 from the Permanent Representative
of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the note dated 13 June 1987 that the Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador addressed to his Central American colleagues. The note explains why my Government requested that the meeting of Central American Presidents should be held on 10 and 11 August 1987, so that the meeting in question should be preceded by three meetings of Ministers for Foreign Affairs in order to allow careful, serious and full consideration of the proposal concerning peace for Central America, submitted by His Excellency, Mr. Oscar Arias Sánchez, President of Costa Rica, thus leaving the required periods of time for the relevant consultations and negotiations.

The text of the above-mentioned note is as follows:

"To Their Excellencies, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua;

Upon instructions from Mr. José Napoleón Duarte, President of the Republic, I have the honour to draw your attention to my Government's concern about the possible threats to the achievement of a stable and lasting regional peace, arising in the current circumstances from the holding of the scheduled summit meeting of Central American Presidents, in Guatemala on 25 and 26 June, at which the proposal entitled 'The time for peace' submitted by

* A/42/50.

His Excellency, Mr. Oscar Arias Sánchez, President of Costa Rica, is to be discussed.

As you know, this timely and constructive proposal and the lofty goals pursued in it represent the basic foundation for achieving a regional consensus based on the desire for peace as a primary element from which emanates the common welfare of all Central Americans, who wish to live a life in which they can construct and zealously safeguard pluralistic and participatory democratic systems that can produce structures and collective conduct characteristic of a new society, in a climate of harmony.

Thus, Sir, it is now evident that there is some slight possibility of attaining the invaluable prize of peace as a result of a procedure based on serious, careful consideration of the matter in question, in the context of multilateral concessions that will promote the conclusion of agreements leading to the achievement of their cherished goals, through strict fulfilment of a historic commitment, which - on the basis of the political will demonstrated by our Governments and with the international community as a witness - will guarantee the implementation, verification and control of all the actions that will, when combined, create a concept that is the direct opposite of the mere absence of war.

You will understand that, like all great acts throughout history, an agreement of such importance can be achieved only on the basis of the attainment and strengthening of an initial minimum consensus, which calls for a climate conducive to dialogue and negotiation.

However, in the months preceding submission of the proposal it was not possible to hold preparatory meetings at which high-level representatives of the five States concerned could give in-depth consideration to the matter in question with a view to paving the way for such a basic consensus, with the result that it has not been possible to reach the minimum level of initial agreement required in order for the Central American summit meeting to be a success.

Sir, in keeping with the high expectations that our peoples now have, I wish to appeal to you and to suggest that a political opportunity should immediately be made available, by agreement, for high-level consultations and negotiations, leading, as a matter of priority, to the adoption of a text setting forth such an initial consensus, for consideration by the Presidents at the Guatemala meeting. I therefore believe that it is vitally important that the Ministers for Foreign Affairs should hold meetings on 26 June and 10 and 30 July in order to adopt a basic text to be the subject of final negotiations at the presidential summit meeting, which it would be wise to hold on 10 and 11 August.

I thank you for your kind concern for the success of the presidential summit meeting, whose purpose is to bring about a future in which there will be peace and democracy in Central America. Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ricardo Acevedo Peralta
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of El Salvador"

I request you to have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 34 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Roberto MEZA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
