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

Letter dated 21 March 1988 from the representatives of Argentina,  
Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela to  
the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from our Governments, we have the honour to transmit to you the attached communiqué concerning the situation in Central America.

We should be grateful if this note and its annex could be distributed as a document of the forty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Marcelo E. R. DELPECH  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
of Argentina

(Signed) Paulo NOGUEIRA-BATISTA  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
of Brazil

(Signed) Enrique PEÑALOSA  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
of Colombia

(Signed) Mario MOYA-PALENCIA  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
of Mexico

(Signed) Jorge E. RITTER  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
of Panama

(Signed) Carlos ALZAMORA  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
of Peru

(Signed) Juan Enrique FISCHER  
Ambassador, Alternate Representative  
of Uruguay

(Signed) Andrés AGUILAR  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
of Venezuela

ANNEX

Communiqué on the situation in Central America,  
issued on 18 March 1988 in New York

The countries members of the Contadora Group and the Support Group,

1. Express their profound concern at the escalation of the foreign military presence in the territory of the Republic of Honduras.
2. Reiterate the need for strict compliance with the fundamental principles of non-intervention, prohibition of the threat or use of force, and peaceful settlement of disputes.
3. Issue a fraternal and urgent appeal to the Governments of Honduras and Nicaragua to reduce the tension in their border area immediately and to guarantee respect for each other's territorial integrity and the non-use of their territories as a base for aggression against another State, in accordance with the commitments entered into under the Esquipulas II agreement.
4. Issue an appeal for the halting and immediate reversal of the escalation of the foreign military presence in the territory of the Republic of Honduras and in Central America, as well as for the termination of all aid to irregular forces and insurrectionist movements operating in the area. They likewise reiterate that dialogue and direct negotiation are the only lawful means for solving the region's problems.
5. Urge all parties involved to exercise the utmost restraint and refrain from any action which might aggravate the conflict and jeopardize the Central American peace process.
6. Urge the Secretary-General of the United Nations to arrange for the immediate dispatch of an observer mission and to contribute, by all means at his disposal, to the restoration of peace.

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