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TELEGRAM DATED 23 SEPTEMBER 1978 FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

In conformity with Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the resolution adopted today by the 17th Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs:

"The 17th Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs,

"Considering:

"That at the meeting of 15 September 1978, the Permanent Council decided to establish an Ad Hoc Commission of Observers to verify the facts brought to its attention by the Governments of Costa Rica and Nicaragua;

"That at the meeting of 18 September 1978, the Permanent Council decided to convene the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, in accordance with the first part of article 59 of the Charter of the Organization, to consider the serious events taking place in the Central American region;

"That those events include regrettable incidents in that region, including incursions by the armed forces of one country into the territory of another, which creates a serious risk of international conflict;

"That the human suffering in Nicaragua, and in the border areas of neighbouring countries, seems to be of a magnitude necessitating urgent humanitarian efforts to mitigate it;

"That the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has accepted the invitation of the Government of Nicaragua to visit that country on 5 October next;

"That the basic principles of this Organization include the peaceful settlement of controversies of an international character, non-intervention in the internal or external affairs of States and respect for the fundamental rights of the human person;

"Resolves:

"1. To urge the Governments directly concerned to abstain from any action that might aggravate the present situation.

"2. To request the Secretary General of the Organization to consult with the Governments of the affected region and with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the organizations of the United Nations system and other humanitarian intergovernmental organizations as required to alleviate the suffering in the region, and to urge Member States to give urgent and generous support to efforts aimed at providing such assistance.

"3. To request the Permanent Council likewise to submit for consideration by this Meeting the report to be submitted to it by the Ad Hoc Commission established by resolution CP/RES.249-341/78, and to keep that Commission in operation as long as the Meeting of Consultation remains open, for any mission which the latter may entrust to it.

"4. To note that, having accepted the invitation of the Government of Nicaragua, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights will visit that country, and to express the hope that the Commission, in agreement with the Government concerned, will advance its visit to Nicaragua if possible.

"5. To note that, without prejudice to the full observance of the principle of non-intervention, the Government of Nicaragua has stated that it is prepared in principle to accept the friendly co-operation and conciliatory efforts which various States Members of the Organization may offer it with a view to establishing without delay the conditions necessary for a peaceful solution of the situation.

"6. To keep the 17th Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs open as long as the present situation persists.

"7. To request the Secretary General of the Organization to keep the United Nations Security Council informed of the decisions adopted by the Meeting of Consultation."

Alejandro ORFILA
Secretary General