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> THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS IN FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 14 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement issued on 11 March 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on the electoral process in El Salvador.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 40.

(<u>Signed</u>) N. H. BIEGMAN Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations

ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

<u>Statement issued on 11 March 1997 by the Presidency of the</u> <u>European Union on the electoral process in El Salvador</u>

The European Union's attention has been drawn to the recent events surrounding the electoral process in El Salvador, which have given rise to concern.

The European Union reiterates the need for transparency in the general and local elections and hopes that the Supreme Court will be in a position to perform its role as an impartial arbitrator to the full.

The European Union hopes that the whole electoral campaign will take place in the same spirit of mutual respect. It recalls that it has provided El Salvador with financial and technical assistance in order to carry out the necessary electoral reforms, and encourages the political forces to work towards El Salvador's rapid reconstruction and its prosperity.
