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LETTER DATED 11 APRIL 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF HONDURAS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you of the following:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Honduras has instructed me to express our views on the contents of the note dated 6 April 1983 addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations (S/15689).

I. Honduras wishes to repeat once again that, in order to contribute to the establishment of lasting peace in Central America, concrete measures must be taken to relieve tensions and put an end to violence, that being the position formally stated in the "peace initiative" submitted by Mr. Edgardo Paz Barnica, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras, to the Council of the Organization of American States last year, which may be summarized as follows:

(1) Immediate laying of foundations for the achievement of general disarmament in the region; (2) agreement also on an objective and rational reduction in the number of foreign military and other advisers; (3) study of and agreement on appropriate machinery for monitoring, by means of international supervision and surveillance to which Honduras is pledged to submit, fulfilment of the obligations assumed by the Governments of the Central American area; (4) discussion of and agreement on the most appropriate machinery for halting the traffic in arms in the region; (5) maintenance of absolute respect for the delimited and demarcated frontiers and traditional lines of jurisdiction of the States of the region, with a view to preventing any breach of the peace; and (6) determination of the parameters for an ongoing dialogue of a multilateral character capable of promoting political understandings conducive to the strengthening of a democratic and pluralist system, respect for public freedoms and the right of peoples freely to express their will.

II. The Government of Honduras believes that the foregoing could be achieved if, in the political situation now prevailing in Central America, all States of the region were to fulfil in good faith the international obligations they have assumed, with special reference to the arrangements provided for in the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Organization of American States, a regional agency as referred to in Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, and more specifically under Article 36 of the latter, to which His Excellency the

Ambassador of the United Kingdom, Sir John Thomson, in his capacity as President of the Security Council, referred in his statement of 29 March 1983 (S/PV.2427, p. 42).

III. The Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations, participating in the debate at the invitation of the President of the Security Council, said in his statement that his country respected international commitments and that both Nicaragua and Honduras had a regional and continental commitment, as members of the Organization of American States, whose Charter clearly stated that disputes between member countries should be submitted to the procedures provided for in that Charter before they could be taken to the United Nations Security Council (S/PV.2425, pp. 81-82).

IV. The Government of Honduras has read with great attention the proposal by the Government of France contained in its letter of 6 April 1983, which states that it is in a position to lend its support to the proposal made in the Security Council on 29 March 1983 by the representative of the United Kingdom that the Secretary-General should, with the agreement of the Council, be entrusted with a mission of good offices in Central America (S/15689). In this connection, Honduras deems it appropriate to point out to you that action is pending with regard to the OAS resolutions on its request that the Governments of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala should be urged to hold a meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, as soon as possible, for the purpose of initiating a process of global and regional negotiation that may lead to responsible, serious and permanent arrangements for strengthening peace and re-establishing security in Central America. The meeting would be held on the date and at the place decided on by agreement between the aforementioned countries, with the participation, as honourable witnesses, of such Latin American Governments as they agreed to invite. Honduras further requested that the Governments invited to attend should afford their co-operation in achieving the stated objectives and that the Secretary General of OAS should be instructed to keep himself informed about the process of negotiation, to follow closely the course of the proceedings and to report on them periodically to the Council of OAS.

For all the reasons stated above, the Government of Honduras is of the view that, in order that the eagerly awaited dialogue may become a reality at the earliest possible moment, it will be appropriate first to exhaust the regional effort within the context of the inter-American system, bearing in mind that results of the greatest importance for peace and stability in Central America are now being looked forward to.

I should be grateful if you could have this letter circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Enrique ORTEZ COLINDRES
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Honduras
to the United Nations
