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

Letter dated 4 October 1988 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Honduras addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the proposal which I made today in the United Nations General Assembly on behalf of the Government of Honduras.

For the reasons and arguments I set forth in my statement, I should like to invite you, in consultation with the interested parties, to arrange for the establishment of an International Peace Force, consisting of elements from Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany and Spain, which would be stationed on the border between Honduras and El Salvador and Honduras and Nicaragua. This force would guarantee, by means of inspections and coercive action where necessary, that Honduran border territories would not be used by insurgents from those countries.

The International Peace Force would have to place the said combatants in Salvadorian and Nicaraguan territory far from the Honduran borders. Their relocation in third countries, when appropriate, would have to be carried out from places in Costa Rica and Guatemala, since the Governments of those countries have declared themselves to be neutral and they are consequently in a better position than any other Central American country to assume this crucial and important role.

In carrying out this initiative, the Secretariat, by means of appropriate international mechanisms would also make the necessary provision to prevent new flows of refugees to Honduras and to quickly repatriate or relocate in third countries those already in Honduran territory.

Concomitant to the above-mentioned activities, the Government of Nicaragua would have to desist, once and for all, from the international legal action it has brought against Honduras, which has been interfering, and continues to interfere, with the normalization process in Central America.

In the view of the Government of Honduras, it would be advantageous if you could convene whatever parties may be necessary in order to deal with other interferences which continue to keep the Central American crisis from being resolved. For example, it might be worth considering holding negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, on the one hand, and, on the other, between the five Central American countries and the United States of America and between the latter and Nicaragua, should the parties deem that appropriate, as I suggested last November in the General Assembly of the Organization of American States.

This overall approach would enable us to tackle properly the security concerns of all parties, such as, for example, the balance of forces in the region, which issues have not as yet been dealt with effectively.

Creation of the International Peace Force which Honduras is proposing and the necessary complementary means would renew the impetus towards peace provided by the Esquipulas II agreement which, at present, seems precarious.

I should be grateful if you would see to it that this note and the enclosed annexes are circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 22.

(Signed) Carlos LOPEZ CONTRERAS
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Honduras

ANNEX I

Agreement between the Nicaraguan Government and the Nicaraguan resistance

(free translation)

THE CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA AND THE NICARAGUAN RESISTANCE, MEETING IN SAPOA MARCH 21-23, 1988, WITH THE AIM OF CONTRIBUTING TO RECONCILIATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ESQUIPULAS II AGREEMENT AND IN THE PRESENCE OF WITNESSES, CARDINAL MIGUEL OBANDO Y BRAVO, PRESIDENT OF THE EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE OF NICARAGUA, AND AMBASSADOR JOAO BAENA SOARES, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAS, HAVE ARRIVED AT THE FOLLOWING AGREEMENT :

- 1) CESSATION OF OFFENSIVE MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THE ENTIRE NATIONAL TERRITORY FOR A PERIOD OF SIXTY DAYS BEGINNING APRIL 1 OF THIS YEAR, DURING WHICH THERE WILL OCCUR A NEGOTIATING PROCESS FOR DEFINITIVE CEASEFIRE WHOSE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION WILL OCCUR JOINTLY WITH THE OTHER COMMITMENTS CONTEMPLATED IN ESQUIPULAS II. BOTH PARTIES AGREE TO MEET AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN MANAGUA ON APRIL 6 TO CONTINUE THE NEGOTIATIONS ON A DEFINITIVE CEASEFIRE.
- 2) DURING THE FIRST 15 DAYS, THE FORCES OF THE RESISTANCE WILL LOCATE THEMSELVES IN ZONES WHOSE LOCATION, SIZE, AND MODUS OPERANDI WILL BE MUTUALLY AGREED TO BY A SPECIAL COMMISSION IN A MEETING IN SAPOA TO BEGIN MONDAY, MARCH 28.
- 3) THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA WILL DECREE A GENERAL AMNESTY FOR THOSE TRIED AND SENTENCED FOR VIOLATION OF THE LAW OF MAINTENANCE OF ORDER AND PUBLIC SECURITY, AND FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMY OF THE PREVIOUS REGIME FOR CRIMES COMMITTED BEFORE JULY 19, 1979. IN THE CASE OF THE FIRST GROUP, AMNESTY WILL BE GRADUAL, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE RELIGIOUS SENTIMENTS OF THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE ON THE OCCASION OF HOLY WEEK, AND WILL BEGIN WITH THE LIBERATION OF THE FIRST 100 PRISONERS ON PALM SUNDAY. SUBSEQUENTLY, UPON VERIFICATION OF THE ENTRY OF THE NICARAGUAN RESISTANCE FORCES IN THE ZONES MUTUALLY AGREED UPON, THERE WILL BE FREED 50 PERCENT OF THE PRISONERS. THE REMAINING 50 PERCENT WILL BE FREED ON A DATE AFTER SIGNATURE OF THE CEASEFIRE AND WILL BE AGREED UPON IN THE MEETING OF APRIL 6 IN MANAGUA.

IN THE CASE OF THE PRISONERS REFERRED TO IN THE SECOND CATEGORY OF THE FIRST PARAGRAPH UNDER THIS NUMBER, THEIR LIBERATION WILL BEGIN WITH THE SIGNATURE OF THE DEFINITIVE CEASE-FIRE UNDER GUIDELINES (PREVIO DICTAMEN) OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF THE OAS.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAS WILL BE THE GUARANTOR AND TRUSTEE (DEPOSITARIO) OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AMNESTY.

- 4) WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF GUARANTEEING FOOD AND BASIC SUPPLIES FOR THE IRREGULAR FORCES, THEY WILL ARRANGE FOR AND ACCEPT EXCLUSIVELY HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, CONSISTENT WITH ARTICLE 5 OF THE ESQUIPULAS II AGREEMENT, WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED BY NEUTRAL ORGANIZATIONS.
- 5) THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA WILL GUARENTEE UNRESTRICTED FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AS CONTEMPLATED IN THE ESQUIPULAS II AGREEMENT.
- 6) ONCE THE FORCES OF THE NICARAGUAN RESISTANCE ARE CONCENTRATED IN THE ZONES MUTUALLY AGREED TO, (THE RESISTANCE) CAN SEND TO THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE AS MANY DELEGATES AS THE POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT MAKE IT UP, UP TO A MAXIMUN OF EIGHT. IN THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE THERE WILL BE CONSIDERED, AMONG OTHER TOPICS, THAT OF MILITARY SERVICE.
- 7) IT IS GUARANTEED TO ALL PERSONS WHO, FOR POLITICAL MOTIVES OR ANY OTHER REASON, HAVE LEFT THE COUNTRY, THE ABILITY TO RETURN TO NICARAGUA AND BE INTEGRATED INTO THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL PROCESSES WITHOUT ANY TYPE OF CONDITION OTHER THAN THOSE ESTABLISHED IN THE LAWS OF THE REPUBLIC. THEY WILL NOT BE JUDGED, PUNISHED, OR PERSECUTED, FOR ACTIVITIES OF A POLITICAL/MILITARY NATURE THAT THEY MAY HAVE UNDERTAKEN.
- 8) THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA CONFIRMS THAT THOSE PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN REINTEGRATED INTO A P'ACEFUL LIFE CAN PARTICIPATE WITH EQUAL CONDITIONS AND GUARANTEES IN THE ELECTIONS FOR THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT, AND THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

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ON THE DATES THAT ARE ESTABLISHED FOR THESE, AS WELL AS IN THE NATIONAL GENERAL ELECTIONS ON THE DATE ESTABLISHED BY THE CONSTITUTION.

TO PUT INTO EFFECT THE VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THIS AGREEMENT, THE VERIFICATION COMMISSION WILL BE ESTABLISHED, COMPOSED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE OF NICARAGUA, HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL MIGUEL OBANDO Y BRAVO, AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, HIS EXCELLENCY JOAO BAENA SOARES.

THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND THE SERVICES NECESSARY FOR THIS COMMISSION, THAT WOULD PERMIT AND EXPEDITE COMPLIANCE, FOLLOW-UP, AND VERIFICATION OF THIS AGREEMENT, WILL BE REQUESTED AND ENTRUSTED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAS.

ADDENDUM :

BOTH SIDES AGREE TO EXTEND TO APRIL 1 THIS YEAR THE CESSATION OF OFFENSIVE MILITARY OPERATIONS PREVIOUSLY AGREED TO BY BOTH PARTIES ON MARCH 21, 1988.

SIGNED IN SAPOA, RIVAS, NICARAGUA, ON MARCH 23, 1988.

ON BEHALF OF NICARAGUA:

ON BEHALF OF THE NICARAGUAN
RESISTANCE :

GENERAL OF THE ARMY
HUMBERTO ORTEGA SAAVEDRA
MINISTER OF DEFENSE

DR. ADOLFO CALERO PORTOCARREÑO
DIRECTOR

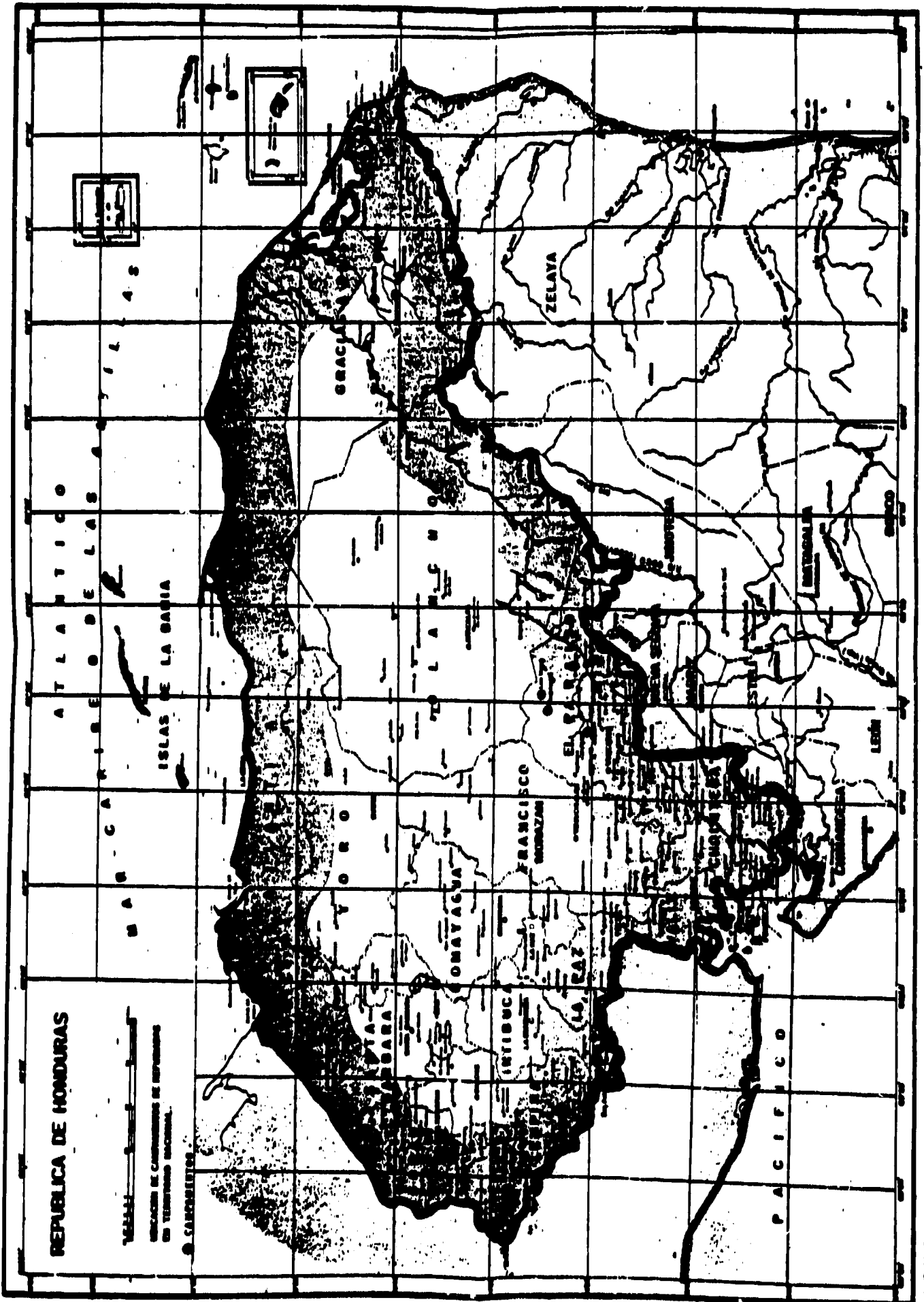
HANS JUERGEN WISCHNEWSKI
ADVISED

ING. ALFREDO CESAR AGUIRRE
DIRECTOR

PAUL REICHLER
ADVISED

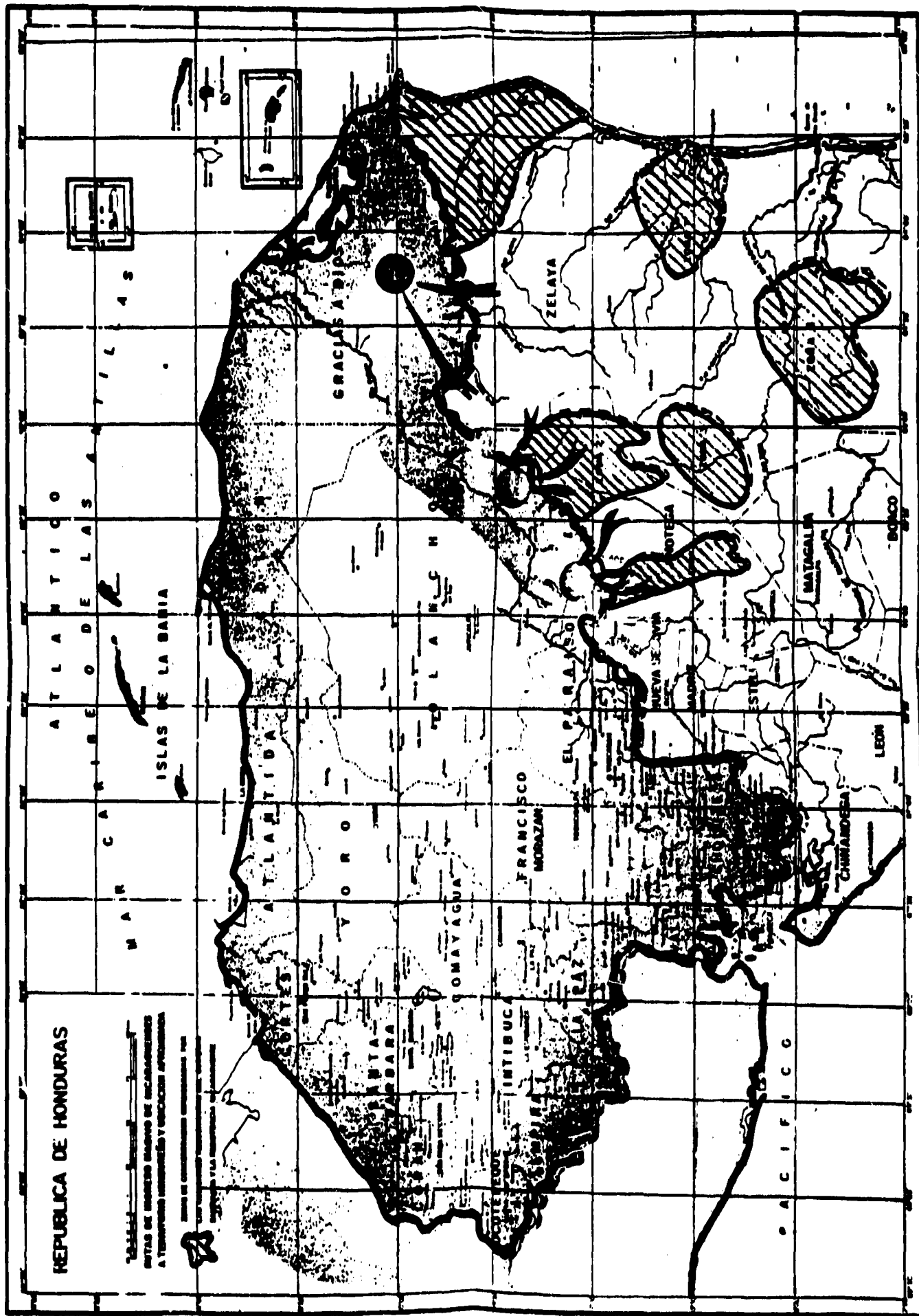
DR. ARISTIDES SANCHEZ HERDOCIA
DIRECTOR

Appendix I



Int. Conf. 1988 - Ann. 10188

Appendix II



ANNEX II
HONDURAN FOREIGN POLICY

SPEECH BY THE
SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF HONDURAS
CARLOS LOPEZ CONTRERAS

SEVENTEENTH ORDINARY PERIOD OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

WASHINGTON, D. C.

NOVEMBER 12, 1967

**Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Foreign Secretaries,
Mr. Secretary General,
Mr. Assistant Secretary General,
Mr. Delegates:**

After listening with attention to the distinguished speakers before me, I have been able to verify the consensus existing in some of the topics that have been dealt with. But in none has that consensus been more evident than in the unanimous manifestation of satisfaction on the election of the Foreign Minister of Costa Rica as Chairman of this General Assembly.

The Government of Honduras, under President José Azcona, widely identified with ideas of peace, liberty and democracy that also inspire the Government of Costa Rica, joins others in congratulating Minister Madrigal Nieto with the conviction that his experience, shrewdness, perseverance and diplomatic finesse more than guarantee fruitful and positive achievements for this General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman:

It is most unfortunate to admit that our Organization, in spite of the efforts of Secretary General Baena Soares, continues suffering an almost paralyzing crisis, both economically and financially. Such phenomenon, in itself reason of concern, would entail alarming characteristics if it reflected lack of interest of the member states in the Organization and in what it stands for. It would be like abandoning the dreams of our heroes, seeing the United America of Bolívar and Valle turn into a group of thirty separate countries, perhaps joined in small nuclei in search of their own individual fates.

The economic-financial problems would become an effect and not the cause of the present crisis, which manifests itself in different ways: the timorous manner with which the Organization has faced the different regional problems and the reluctance to start using the mechanisms that would turn the Organization more operative as provided in the Cartagena Protocol which as of this date has only been ratified by fourteen countries and may run the same luck of the 1975 Protocol of Reforms to the International Treaty for Reciprocal Assistance. The absence of political will to amend the Pact of Bogota or to approve a new American Treaty of Pacific Solutions is similarly significant.

We thus find ourselves in an Organization on the brink of bankruptcy, whose basic instruments are disarticulated and uncoordinated.

In spite of all this, it is convenient to admit that in the past year, thanks to the initiative of Secretary General, Ambassador Joao Clemente Pereira Soares, together with the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ambassador Javier Pérez de Cuellar, both organizations finally participated, in an active manner, on the search of solutions to one of the crisis in the Continent: The Central American situation.

With respect to this inter-organizational cooperation, I have the pleasure to inform you that on last October 28th, the United Nations General Assembly approved by consensus the draft of a resolution presented by the Honduran Delegation with the co-sponsorship of all the OAS Members States, except one. Such Resolution is an invitation by the Secretary General of the United Nations to:

- Procure additional cooperation and coordination between both organizations and their specialized organisms;
- Submit in 1988 a report on the application of said resolution, maintaining the inclusion of the subject in the forty third period of the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman:

Several historic circumstances, external factors and the same political crisis affecting Central America are attempting against the well-being and future development of the area. Facing such situation and fully conscious of the close links joining peace, democracy and development, it is evident that Central America deserves more assistance in its efforts of recovering with the aid of friendly countries and institutions of international technical and financial cooperation. The Government of Honduras acknowledges the Secretariat General's compliance with mandates aimed at ensuring an effective treatment to particular problems in the Central American area as a whole and in Honduras in particular.

In this sense, I wish to emphasize the compliance with the Resolution of the Fourteenth General Assembly, seeking for better attention to the needs of development of Central America. In the last months, the Secretariat General, with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank and the Pan-American Health Organization, has backed national efforts to carry out an international meeting of donors, in order to channel resources aimed at tending to the social needs of the poorest sectors in all the countries in the area.

My country is participating with interest in the Program of Social Investments for Development of the Central American Isthmus, which constitutes the basis for that meeting. On this occasion, Honduras wishes to highlight the valuable support being received from the Secretariat General in this field.

Mr. Chairman:

Respect to human rights is the foundation on which the democratic state of law must stand. True democracy cannot exist without respect to human rights. Democracy and human rights are both values of the same equation.

The Government of Honduras, a result of the people's will expressed in free and honest elections, is based on full respect to human rights, acknowledging in the human person —whose dignity is unviolable— the supreme end of society and the state.

For this reason, Honduras appears among the first countries to ratify the 1969 American Convention of Human Rights and to accept the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court, without any reservations nor conditions.

During the last decades, our Continent has bled as a result of undiscriminate violence brought by terrorist actions, internal confrontations bordering with civil wars and the logical mass violations of human rights.

Central America has been suffering from endemic subversive movements as far as thirty years ago and since 1978 to date, the area has faced domestic armed struggles causing over one hundred thousand dead, wounded and missing persons, thousands of prisoners and political exiles, as well as considerable material damages. Honduras, however, thanks to its consolidated democratic process has managed to withdraw itself from those conflicts. Instead of generating refugees, it has received more than two hundred thousand Central American refugees who have found shelter in the climate of peace and liberty prevailing in Honduras in spite of the enormous economic difficulties we are facing at present.

Notwithstanding that Honduras works in peace devoting its major efforts toward the strengthening of democracy, aimed at its people's integral development, at safeguarding human rights of hundreds of thousands Central American refugees to whom it provides safe shelter, while attempting through all kinds of means to bring the area back to normal conditions, our country finds itself in a quite paradoxical situation.

It is the first nation to be accused by the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights before the Court for alleged violations that supposedly took place in previous regimes.

However, the Government of Honduras, far from feeling humiliated or insulted by such accusation, believes that it should be used as an example to several sectors trying to condemn us, whose action, if they are in fact defending human rights, should be oriented instead towards having their Governments submit themselves to the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, in the same broad manner shown by Honduras.

It suffices to say that once again the Government of Honduras is proceeding with characteristic correction and serenity, honoring its legal obligation by appearing before the International Court to present its defense allegations.

On the question of human rights, good intentions are not enough; concrete and urgent actions are required. I, therefore, urge the other members of this Organization to follow the example set by Honduras --if they have failed to do so-- and proceed to accept the unconditioned jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Such acceptance would become the best proof that true respect of human rights is far more than a stereotyped and convenient posture.

Led by the firm spirit inspiring us and true to honor the compliance with the "Procedure for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America", in the middle of last October the first massive repatriation of the area took place in the Honduran-Salvadorean border, with 4,311 Salvadorean citizens returning to their country. Similarly, in the Oriental region of Honduras, the voluntary repatriation program has allowed the return of 2,504 Nicaraguans. It is our hope that this program will be increased until every Central American is able to live in his own nation, free from violence and repression.

Mr. Chairman:

It is convenient to clarify that the so-called Central American crisis has its own characteristics, consisting of prolonged isolated civil wars which have originated tensions between nations without producing any armed international conflicts, apart from some armed incidents at the borders.

As has been repeatedly said, this crisis became more serious when it found itself amid the East-West confrontation, with its sequel of domestic struggle in some countries and the interminable currents of refugees.

The Contadora Group is born as a result of this dramatic situation. The Group offers its disinterested mediating efforts, accepted with hope and satisfaction by the Central American Governments. This is so because, as brilliantly expressed by the great Peruvian jurist, José Luis Bustamante I. Rivero, "among institutions of law, there are some which excel for discretion and this is the case of mediation. It evolves quietly, without boasting or exaggerating signs. It moves in the shade, it does not cast shadows on anybody ... and in the dimness of its sobriety, its influence is felt as an advice and not as a mandate ..."

It is then this mediating effort the one that will help us continue negotiations still pending in the fields of security and verification and control in the draft of the Contadora Act.

Domestic conflicts, as I mentioned before, have originated massive emigrations of refugees, whose repatriation is imperative, in a clear response to compliance with national reconciliation commitments.

This is one of the fundamental commitments found within the sphere of Contadora's mediating role because it implies dialogue, cease-fire, amnesty, tolerance, refugees' repatriation and human rights to arrive at democratization and return to normal conditions.

Armanentism is another factor of disturbance and insecurity in Central America. Consequently, Honduras has insisted in the termination of arms build-up, as well as on limitation, reduction and control of armaments and troops. In this context, the Contadora Group has been reiteratedly provided with its first instance mediating role, which must not be frustrated due to uncompromising attitudes, as it already occurred in the past, since that role is a key solution to control extraregional military presence in the area.

On February 1987, when the President of Costa Rica, Mr. Oscar Arias, honored now, to our satisfaction, with the Nobel Prize for Peace, proposed a new peace initiative, my Government considered it a constructive option for maintaining peace in Central America within the context of political negotiations.

On July 31, 1987, at the Initiative of Honduras, the Foreign Ministers of Central America and the Contadora Group met again after a year, this time in Tegucigalpa, aiming to continue with their efforts to bring the region back to normal. The agenda comprised the Arias Plan, the suggestions made by the Governments and the document entitled "Honduran Proposals with regard to the Peace Initiatives for Central America", oriented towards the harmonious merging of the political objectives of domestic reconciliation included in such plan with the Honduran recommendations for reactivating the Contadora Group's mediation in the field of security.

This meeting proved to be a landmark in the pacifying process, which culminated with the subscription in Guatemala, by the Central American Presidents of the document "Procedure for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America" on August 7, 1987.

As provided for in the Guatemala agreement, five important meetings have been held to date: The first one took place in San Salvador, where the Executive Commission was established; the second was held in Caracas, where the International Commission on Verification and Follow-up was formed; the third meeting, in Managua, established the framework for both Commissions; the fourth, in San José, permitted the Executive Commission to set the scope of the simultaneity principle regarding the compliance with agreed commitments and finally, the fifth meeting, in the headquarters of our Organization, where the International Commission on Verification and Follow-up took notice of the steps taken by the Governments for complying with such commitments.

The Executive Commission, in its character of delegate organ of the Central American Presidents, has described the principles, the di-

rectives and the orientations to guide the tasks of the International Commission on Verification and Follow-up, in its role of facilitating organ for compliance with their respective commitments by the Governments.

Consequently, the Executive Commission will see to it that the International Commission on Verification and Follow-up is assisted and supported with the necessary means to fulfill its function.

Mr. Chairman:

Central America, through the Executive Commission, has under its command and control the process of return to normality, both in the cases of countries with civil wars, as in the ones concerning bilateral and multilateral tensions derived from such conflicts.

In order to guarantee the success of the pacifying and distension process, it is fundamental that irregular forces fully accept the Agreement of Guatemala, proceeding to act accordingly. This includes those forces in El Salvador, as well as the ones in Nicaragua and Guatemala. Once such public acceptance is achieved on the part of the irregular forces, the Governments of El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala must undertake all the necessary actions "to reach an agreement and bring about an effective cease-fire, in accordance with the Constitution".

In conformity with the agreements of Esquipulas II, it is essential that all the Central American countries impede the use of their territory for acts of aggression against other states, both from the material point of view as from the one pertaining to moral and propaganda support. This obligation must also be fulfilled by the Member States of the International Commission on Verification and Follow-up and in those countries interested in the success of our efforts to bring the area back to normal.

When the public appeal to terminate military aid to irregular forces is made, we trust that it will be accepted and complied with by all

the nations engaged in this type of activity, including those who repeatedly deny it, in spite of the evidence in contrary

Honduras is a good faith participant in the procedure of Guatemala, founded on reciprocal trust, under the premises that all governments will comply with the corresponding commitments, as agreed.

The Central American fatherland demands that such principles of good faith and reciprocal trust on which the Agreement of Guatemala is sustained be strengthened through the elimination of international legal actions which represent an unjustifiable challenge to such principles.

An essential part of the "Esquipulas II" document is the appeal to cease hostilities and it is because of this that the Governments of those States, where irregular or insurgent groups are currently active, have committed themselves to undertake all necessary steps to bring about a cease-fire and national reconciliation, pursuant to the Constitution.

In effect, if hostilities cease in those countries suffering from a civil war, the national reconciliation process shall have begun; refugees will go back to their native land and tensions produced by those seeking a sanctuary in the bordering lines will end between neighboring countries. Consequently, the work of the International Commission on Verification and Follow-up will be made easier and the same thing will apply to compliance with commitments on the part of other governments undergoing tensions generated by domestic conflicts.

Mr. Chairman:

As I stated before, the main characteristic of today's situation in Central America is that it is the result of prolonged civil wars which generate tensions between governments. It is then necessary to put an end to these civil wars because they threaten security and peace in the area. This is why it is so important for national reconciliation processes to devote their best efforts to their achievement.

In this sense and even though Honduras is not included in those cases "where deep divisions have taken place within society", the President of the country, exercising his constitutional powers, resolved to establish a National Commission of Reconciliation in order to offset some ill - intentioned opinions, pretending to argue that the failure to establish said Commission stood for non-compliance of the procedure agreed in "Esquipulas II".

In the same manner, my Government is honored to comply with the "commitment to prevent the use of its own territory by persons, organizations or groups seeking to destabilize the Governments of Central American countries and to refuse to provide them with or allow them to receive military and logistical support". We have faith that this obligation will also be complied with by the other Governments and, in order to guarantee such compliance, Honduras is willing to request the presence of an international security commission in the countries' bordering lines, especially the ones pertaining to El Salvador and Nicaragua, to ensure that such lines are not crossed over by subversive elements, from one side to the other and viceversa.

Mr. Chairman:

The Central American Presidents upon subscription of the "Procedure of Guatemala", agreed to establish a ninety-day term for the execution of those commitments involving a series of actions at the same moment of those other one single action commitments. This balanced system of compliance with the agreements would ensure the simultaneity in such compliance.

Accordingly, the verification and follow-up of the commitments accepted under the "Procedure of Guatemala" necessarily imply parallel actions as to the moment in which such commitments must begin to cast their effects. The principle of harmonious interaction and the complementarity in the fulfillment of the commitments themselves with the corresponding verification and follow-up is evident on the basis of the Agreement adopted by the Executive Commission during its III Meeting.

The Government of Honduras considers that verification must provide equal treatment to commitments of both political and security nature. The mechanisms established by the International Commission on Verification and Follow-up throughout the area will give a better opportunity to fortify trust among the countries in the area.

Ever since the "Esquipulas II" document was subscribed, as well as during the subsequent meetings, Honduras has insisted, as provided for in item 7 of the Agreement, that the Central American Governments, with the mediating participation of Contadora, proceed with negotiations on pending matters in the fields of security, verification and control in the draft of the Contadora Act for Peace and Cooperation in Central America.

However, it was not until the third meeting of the Executive Commission in San José, Costa Rica, on October 27-28, 1987, that the agreement to proceed with negotiations on limiting military armaments and troops within the following forty five days was adopted.

Once again, before this General Assembly, I urge the other Central American countries and the Contadora mediating Group to conclude the negotiation of these essential aspects of regional security.

Mr. Chairman:

It is necessary to recover the spirit of harmony and understanding, by means of concrete actions leading to normalization and distension in Central America.

With the realism that should preside our acts, it is advisable to recognize that the International Commission on Verification and Follow-up, during its meeting at this House last Saturday, in effect verified - in the light of the Governments' public reports and statements on conditionality, that the five fundamental commitments set forth in item 11 in the Guatemala Agreement did not become effective publicly and simultaneously, as agreed by the Central American Presidents.

The Government of Honduras is in the best disposition to impede the failure of our peace efforts, without excluding an urgent call for a new Central American Presidential summit, aimed at evaluating and readjusting the Peace Plan, wherever necessary, since aside from the Executive Commission, there is no other organ to evaluate or interpret such plan.

The Government of Honduras considers as a decisive contribution to strengthen trust and regional peace, the implementation of the following actions by the Government of Nicaragua:

- First: Withdrawal of offensive military troops and equipment from the border line with Honduras;
- Second: Cessation of violations to Honduran air, land and maritime space;
- Third: Cessation of bombings and planting of antipersonal mining devices in Honduran territory and kidnappings of Honduran citizens;
- Fourth: Cessation of political-military interventions in the other Central American States;
- Fifth: Restoration of full jurisdiction of the mediating effort of the Contadora Group; and,
- Sixth: Dialogue with the Nicaraguan armed opposition for national reconciliation purposes and the issuance of a broad and unconditional amnesty.

On the other hand, in a harmonious interaction with the afore mentioned, the Government of El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua could undertake the following joint actions:

- First: To request the establishment of an International Security Commission in the borders of Honduras-El Salvador and Honduras-Nicaragua, responsible for:

- a) Monitoring and denouncing aggressions against nationals and against the Honduran territory;
- b) Denouncing and impeding the entrance of armed irregular forces from El Salvador and Nicaragua into Honduras;
- c) Disarming and confining internationally inspected camps irregulars from El Salvador and Nicaragua seeking sanctuary in Honduran territory; and,
- d) Impeding irregulars or refugees the use of frontier lines for military purposes.

Second: To urge for the establishment of civil mechanisms of an international character, to allow for:

- a) The organization of admission centers and camps for confining disarmed irregulars from El Salvador and Nicaragua;
- b) The admission of disarmed irregulars, providing them with humanitarian assistance;
- c) The repatriation or relocation to third countries within a 3-month period of irregulars having laid down their arms in Honduran territory; and,
- d) The facilitation of repatriation programs of Nicaraguan and Salvadorean refugees.

With regard to security matters, the Government of Honduras announces its decision to consider a timetable for the withdrawal of temporary U.S. military personnel from its territory, provided that the Government of Nicaragua, in a simultaneous and verifiable manner, sets a timetable for the withdrawal of military forces of Soviet bloc countries in Nicaragua and maximum limits or applicable reductions on military armaments and troops are agreed upon by both countries.

Likewise, if there is a relaxing of tensions between the Governments of the United States of America and Nicaragua, and if both parties agree to negotiations, the Government of Honduras would be very pleased for those negotiations to take place in its territory, thus, as of now, Honduras extends its most cordial invitation.

Mr. Chairman:

Honduras has not been a cause of the crisis that saddens Central America. On the contrary, the country suffers from its consequences. It is time now to say ENOUGH! Enough to violence, enough to oppression, ENOUGH especially to indecision to confront basic problems due to demagogic or circumstantial reasons.

Our Organization was created to achieve orderly peace and justice in the Continent, on the basis of the effective exercise of representative democracy.

Such beautiful concepts did not originate from the inspiration of a dreamer nor are they a simple lyrical and utopic vision. Quite the contrary, they are carved indelibly in the deepest corner of the soul of the man of the Americas.

The American Continent after two hundred years continues in its struggle to become the true land of hope and freedom. Much blood has been shed and will continue to be shed to reach and consolidate such goals. Everything seems to indicate that we are to win the battle. This is evidenced by the present crushing majority of democracies in our vast continent, expected to become universal.

What the Latin American people demand is for us to show without shame nor hesitation the virile boldness of our ancestors in defending their conquests.

Only if we nail down forever, in the highest peak of the American Continent the banner of justice and liberty shall we be able to justify the existence of our Organization and the reason of being of our own nations.