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

Letter dated 17 November 1988 from the Permanent Representative
of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the note addressed to you by the Costa Rican Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto, concerning the proposal he made before the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), in El Salvador on 15 November 1988. The note bearing the Minister's own signature is coming by diplomatic bag and will be forwarded to you as soon as it arrives at this Mission.

"Mr. Secretary-General,

"I have the honour to transmit herewith the proposal that I made before the General Assembly of OAS a few days ago.

"My Government considers that there is an urgent need to resume peace talks in Central America, and has been stressing that if that is to happen within a strict time-limit, it is essential to remove the obstacles that have prevented talks between the Central American Governments, and talks between certain of those Governments and the respective insurgent movements, from being resumed - hence the proposal that we have submitted to the supreme regional forum for its consideration.

"I should be grateful if you could give thorough consideration to this Costa Rican initiative, which, I am pleased to say, has been received positively in the countries concerned.

"The Costa Rican proposal is that a representative of the Group of Eight should participate in the border verification tasks. It seemed to me that in view of the contribution that the Group has made in thinking through this entire process, and the manifest desire to associate in this genuinely Central

American effort representatives of various countries whose valuable collaboration we could not have done without, it was imperative to invite a representative of the Group of Eight as well. That is why I formulated the initiative as I have.

"As the Central American Ministers for Foreign Affairs have agreed to meet on 29 and 30 November in Mexico City, it would be very useful to have the benefit of your views by then, for we consider your support and fraternal co-operation vital for the success of the peace talks in the region.

"I am confident that we can count upon your continued help in the quest for harmony and democracy in Central America.

"Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto"

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 22.

(Signed) Carlos José GUTIERREZ
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Proposal submitted by the Costa Rican Minister for Foreign
Affairs and Public Worship at the General Assembly of the
Organization of American States, San Salvador,
15 November 1988

With a view to contributing to a resumption of the peace talks in Central America, the Government of Costa Rica strongly urges all those involved in the crisis to remove the obstacles as soon as possible and to resume working together towards full implementation of the peace plan.

To that end, we propose the following:

1. That a verification and control procedure should be established at the borders between Honduras and El Salvador, and between Honduras and Nicaragua, accommodating their security interests, and that the Federal Republic of Germany, Canada, Spain and one country of the Group of Eight should be involved in that procedure under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations;
2. That, at the same time, Nicaragua should withdraw its action against Honduras at The Hague, reserving the right to go back to the Court if the agreement is not implemented;
3. Concurrently, that the dialogue between the Nicaraguan Government and the Nicaraguan resistance should be resumed so that the Nicaraguans themselves, who have always benefited from the valuable participation of Cardinal Obando y Bravo and the Secretary-General of OAS, may generate concrete commitments and irreversible measures towards effective implementation of the democratic principles of Esquipulas.
