



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/44/205 ✓
S/20559
3 April 1989
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fourth session
Item 34 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:
THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND
SECURITY AND PEACE INITIATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fourth year

Letter dated 3 April 1989 from the Permanent Representative
of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a note dated 29 March 1989 addressed by His Excellency Daniel Ortega Saavedra, President of the Republic of Nicaragua, to the Central American Presidents. I should be most grateful if you would have this note and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 34 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alejandro SERRANO CALDERA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/44/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Note dated 29 March 1989 from the President of Nicaragua
addressed to the Central American Presidents

On 14 February last, at a meeting of the five Central American Presidents, we signed an agreement of paramount importance for the effort to ensure peace and stability in our deeply troubled region.

This agreement contains the commitment and fundamental decision of the five Central American Presidents to work out, within a period not exceeding 90 days, a joint plan for the voluntary demobilization, repatriation or relocation of the contras based in Honduras. The agreement also provides that "those Governments of the region and Governments from outside the region which are providing either overt or covert aid to irregular forces or insurrectionist movements should immediately terminate such aid, with the exception of humanitarian assistance which furthers the purposes of this document".

On 24 March, the Administration and the Congress of the United States announced a bipartisan agreement to continue providing funds to the counter-revolutionary forces based in Honduras until February 1990.

The decision of the United States Government to continue providing funds for a further 11 months to the military forces of the counter-revolution based in Honduras is a flagrant violation of international law, a blatant act of contempt for the Judgment of the International Court of Justice of 27 June 1986, and flies in the face of the explicit determination of the five Central American Presidents to take immediate steps to work out a joint plan for the demobilization, repatriation or relocation of the contras.

Since the agreement was signed by the five Central American Presidents in El Salvador, the Government of Nicaragua has been seriously and responsibly complying with the unilateral decisions contained in that agreement. Thus, we may observe that:

- (a) The decision to bring national elections forward to 25 February 1990 has been ratified;
- (b) Formal invitations have been addressed to the United Nations and to the Organization of American States to observe all stages of the electoral process;
- (c) Pardons have been granted to 1,894 former Somozan guards, as verified by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States;
- (d) The process of consultations with the political opposition parties concerning amendments to the electoral law and the law regulating freedom of expression and information - which are due to be approved on 25 April - are at an advanced stage;

(e) Proposals have also been made in the course of these discussions with a view to guaranteeing all political parties equal access to national television and radio, in terms of the timing and length of broadcasts, during the electoral campaign;

(f) The Administration has officially requested political parties to submit lists of three candidates selected to serve on the Supreme Electoral Council;

(g) Absolute and unrestricted freedom of expression and political mobilization prevails in Nicaragua.

This whole sustained effort on the part of the Government of Nicaragua to refine our country's democratic framework, and the determination of the Central American Presidents to have a plan for the demobilization and repatriation of the contras ready by 14 May, are now threatened and obstructed by the United States decision to continue financing the counter-revolution for a further 11 months. The Government of Nicaragua considers such an attitude to be unacceptable and reprehensible.

I therefore consider it a matter of urgency that we, the Central American Presidents, should reject this policy, which obstructs and endangers the peace process in Central America. We should reiterate the fundamental principle that the peace and welfare of our peoples come before partisan interests inside the United States and, therefore, that the El Salvador Agreement of 14 February 1989 and, in particular, the fundamental decision to proceed with the demobilization, repatriation or relocation of the contras based in Honduras, continue to be our basic frame of reference, their practical implementation being due within a period not exceeding 90 days.

Daniel ORTEGA SAAVEDRA
