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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:

THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

AND PEACE INITIATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL  
forty-fourth year

Letter dated 17 May 1989 addressed to the Secretary-General  
by the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of  
Nicaragua to the United Nations

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter sent on 16 May 1989 by the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, Mr. José Leon Talavera, to the Secretary of State of the United States of America, Mr. James Baker III (see annex).

I request you to 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) Dysis MONCADA  
Ambassador  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

\* A/44/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Letter dated 16 May 1989 addressed to the Secretary of State of the United States of America by the Acting Minister of Nicaragua

I wish to protest most strongly at the clear and irrefutable fact that your Government, in flagrant disregard of the agreements adopted by the Presidents in the Esquipulas process, has continued fomenting war in Central America, thus disregarding the political will of the five Central American Presidents.

The following facts are an irrefutable proof that the war against Nicaragua is still being promoted by your country:

Between 1 January and 15 May 1989, 47 civilians were killed by the counter-revolution, 738 were wounded, and 131 were abducted, making a grand total of 816 civilian victims. During the same period, our army's troops sustained 309 casualties. For their part, the mercenary forces, when repelled by our troops, sustained 707 casualties. These figures alone show the intensity with which the acts of aggression against my country have been kept up, even after the signing of the Costa del Sol Joint Declaration on 14 February 1989.

An analysis of a short period of time, from 1 to 15 May 1989, will amply support this statement: on 2, 5, 6 and 7 May, there were three attacks each day by the counter-revolution against our troops and civilian objectives. On 3 and 11 May there were seven attacks each day; on 4, 12, 13 and 14 May, there were six attacks each day; on 8 and 9 May there was one attack each day; and on 1, 10 and 15 May, there were two attacks each day. As a result of these criminal actions, 9 civilians were killed, 5 wounded and 32 abducted, making a total of 46 civilian victims. Our troops sustained a total of 31 casualties, including 9 dead and ?? wounded. The mercenary groups, in turn, sustained 67 casualties.

This account of actions against my country is more than conclusive proof that the policy currently followed by your Government is not contributing to the establishment of peace in Central America.

On the contrary, the facts show that the option opened by the bipartisan agreement on keeping the mercenary groups in Honduran territory, whence they carry out their infiltrations on national soil, is having a negative effect on the prospects for peace in the region and promoting the continuation of the violations of international law.

The fundamental reason why the war against my country is continuing lies in the "contradiction" that exists between the option of force and threat opened by the bipartisan agreement and the decision of the Central American Presidents, adopted at Costa del Sol, El Salvador, to proceed to the voluntary demobilization, repatriation and relocation of the contras and their families. It must be clearly understood that keeping the contras in Honduras is in violation of the Esquipulas and Costa del Sol agreements and international law.

The Presidents were very clear in reiterating the call for a halt to aid to the irregular groups, with the exception of humanitarian aid that contributes to the objectives of the joint plan. In this context, "aid" that is not intended for those purposes constitutes disregard for the will of the Presidents of the area, without whose co-operation it will be impossible to attain the peace called for by our peoples.

So far, keeping a door open for the continuation of the war has meant, in addition to the inestimable costs in human lives and material damage, a blocking of the presidential decisions made prior to the bipartisan agreement.

Thus, the establishment of the United Nations Observer Mission in Central America (UNOCA) has been impeded and the joint plan for the demobilization, repatriation and relocation of the contras and their families has not been ratified by the Presidents, although the deadline has fallen due and there is a text prepared by a commission of deputy ministers of the area.

These negative tendencies in the peace process are a direct consequence of concepts and policies that negate sovereign decisions by Central American Presidents. If the United States Government is really interested in promoting a solution of the crisis in Central America, it must begin by respecting the will of the Central Americans themselves. We have already seen the noxious effects on the peace process that the latest decisions adopted by your Government have had.

Calm reflection on these facts demands the adoption of constructive decisions by the new United States Administration that will assist in the establishment of UNOCA, the ratification and putting into operation of the joint plan for the demobilization of the contras agreed on in Guatemala and putting an end to the attacks, abductions and provocations carried out daily by the counter-revolutionary groups, in disregard of the cessation of offensive military operations decreed unilaterally by the Government of Nicaragua.

The Government of Nicaragua considers that, in the peace process, the same spirit of fulfilment and respect of established deadlines should prevail as has been shown by the Government of Nicaragua in carrying out the actions announced unilaterally by President Ortega at the Costa del Sol summit.

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