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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Letter dated 5 July 1989 from the Permanent Representative
of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the letter dated 1 July 1989 addressed to Professor José Antonio Pastor Ridruejo, Special Representative of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights for El Salvador, by Mr. Ricardo Orlando Valdivieso, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, concerning recent political developments in that country which constitute flagrant violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially the right to life.

"I wish to inform you that at 2.45 p.m. on 30 June 1989, the President of the Institute of International Relations, Mr. Edgardo Chacon, was basely assassinated by a group calling itself the FMLN-FDR urban commandos, a deed which clearly betrays both savagery and a complete disregard for the most elemental rights of every individual, especially the right to life.

"Through you, the Government of El Salvador wishes to inform the international community that it forcefully condemns this execrable act, which plunges the Salvadorian family into deeper mourning and sorrow. That family has witnessed the killing of its most illustrious sons, such as Dr. Francisco Pecorini, Dr. José Antonio Rodríguez Porth, Colonel Roberto Armando Rivera and humble but honourable citizens such as civic leaders, the two companions of Dr. Rodríguez Porth, countless merchants and passers-by in the central market of San Salvador, hundreds of country people - mainly children - mutilated by terrorist mines, and those massacred at Tacachico. Such abhorrent acts cannot go unnoticed by any Government,

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agency or institution, for remaining silent in the face of such abominable crimes can only lead their perpetrators to assume that the international community is indifferent to the assassination of illustrious citizens who have fallen under the fire of those who do not have the slightest capacity to fight ideas with ideas.

"June 1989 has witnessed a serious erosion of respect for human rights in the world. We have seen how the international community has emphatically condemned the mass and flagrant violations of the most elemental human rights of the people of the People's Republic of China, crushed by an obstinate and obtuse gerontocracy which also turned a deaf ear to the appeals for clemency made by the most respected authorities in the world. The same has occurred in Central America, where a totalitarian régime refuses to fulfil the commitments relating to the democratization of the Nicaraguan political system assumed vis-à-vis the Organization of American States in 1979 and confirmed in the Esquipulas II Agreements, which were supplemented by the Costa del Sol Declaration of February 1989.

"These acts originating in governmental sources, which are inherently reprehensible, contrast with the situation in El Salvador, where it is an anti-democratic minority which, through indiscriminate terrorism, is seeking to intimidate a people and its most worthy representatives with a view to making them abandon the peaceful course of social coexistence and respond with acts that would then be used to 'denounce' violations of human rights by the Government or 'sectors associated with it'.

"As you will understand, my Government is fully aware of these base intentions of FMLN-FDR and although grief can be a bad adviser, it is absolutely certain that caution, moderation and strict respect for our four guiding principles of national recovery - liberty, honesty, legality and security - form an impregnable barrier as regards our conduct with respect to these crimes, while at the same time constituting the moral and ethical support of all of us who wish El Salvador to attain the peace it so desires as soon as possible.

"Accept, Sir, my gratitude for your pronouncement concerning these crimes and the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ricardo Orlando Valdivieso,
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs"

In the same context of escalating terrorist violence in El Salvador, I wish to bring to your attention the fact that I have been informed that during the morning of Monday, 3 July, the so-called "FMLN urban commandos" carried out an armed attack on the Manuel José Arce residential area, which is situated on the outskirts of San Salvador and inhabited mainly by the families of soldiers, seriously endangering many people, especially children who were getting ready to go to school.

This reprehensible action forms part of the abhorrent violence unleashed by FMLN-FDR, which in this case was aimed at achieving publicity effects, without regard for the fact that it involved a treacherous attack on the civilian population and a consequent irrational intensification of the violence.

I should be very grateful if you would have the information contained in this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 12 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Roberto MEZA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
