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DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF
GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION
ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES
THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: THREATS TO
INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND PEACE
INITIATIVES

Letter dated 9 February 1984 from the Permanent Representatives
of Costa Rica and Panama to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you the text of the joint communiqué issued on 6 February 1984 in connection with the official visit to the Republic of Panama of President Luis Alberto Monge of the Republic of Costa Rica.

We should be grateful if you would have this letter and the text of the joint communiqué circulated as a General Assembly document, under the items entitled "Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States", "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", "Development and international economic co-operation", "Peaceful settlement of disputes between States" and "The situation in Central America: threats to international peace and security and peace initiatives".

(Signed) Fernando ZUMBADO J.
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Costa Rica to the United Nations

(Signed) Leonardo A. KAM
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the
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ANNEX

Joint Communiqué

In connection with the official visit of Luis Alberto Monge, President of the Republic of Costa Rica, to the Republic of Panama.

In response to the invitation issued by President Ricardo de la Espriella of the Republic of Panama, an official visit was paid to Panama City on 4, 5 and 6 February 1984 by President Luis Alberto Monge of the Republic of Costa Rica, who was accompanied on his trip by Carlos José Gutiérrez, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Fernando Berrocal, Minister of the Presidency, and Armando Vargas, Minister of Information and Communications.

The two Presidents took advantage of the occasion provided by the visit in order to reaffirm the indissoluble ties of brotherhood joining the Republics of Costa Rica and Panama and to strengthen the feelings of solidarity and co-operation expressed in the Joint Declaration signed in April 1983.

The Presidents of Costa Rica and Panama also took the opportunity to promote the development of the Convention concerning Frontier Co-operation and other agreements in force, and to that end, President Ricardo de la Espriella of the Republic of Panama designated Mario De Diego, Minister of the Presidency, and Carlos Hoffman, Minister of Commerce and Industry, to co-ordinate on the Panamanian side, by agreement with Oydén Ortega, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the implementation of the objectives established in the Joint Declaration of 1983 and during the official visit, especially those being carried on under the Frontier Convention, such as:

- (a) Ensuring the effective implementation of the Convention and the development of the recommendations made by the various working groups;
- (b) Promoting the activities of the specialized commissions, particularly in the fields of health, education and agro-industry;
- (c) Obtaining the necessary financing.

For his part, President Luis Alberto Monge of the Republic of Costa Rica designated Fernando Berrocal, Minister of the Presidency, Juan Manuel Villasuso, Minister of Planning, and Armando Vargas, Minister of Information and Communications, to co-ordinate by agreement with Carlos José Gutiérrez, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the work of the Costa Rican side in implementing the objectives of the Frontier Convention.

The two Presidents agreed that the comprehensive development of the frontier zone between Panama and Costa Rica can be a model of friendly co-operation which will put into practice the objectives of harmonious development between Central American countries, as proposed by the Contadora Group.

They expressed their concern at the Central American crisis, whose repercussions directly affect the Republic of Costa Rica and the Republic of

Panama, and analysed its effects and the actions that should be taken as soon as possible for an early solution.

They supported representative democracy, placing special emphasis on the process of democratization, to which both countries are committed, as the best option for preventing the rise of régimes that rule by force and of warlike organizations of a destabilizing nature, as well as the intrusion of foreign ideologies which some may try to impose contrary to the will of popular majorities.

They strongly endorsed the formulation of economic policies issued by the Latin American Economic System (SELA), particularly the agreements arrived at by the Latin American Economic Conference recently held at Quito, Ecuador, designed to help solve the grave economic problems which plague Latin America, and they jointly reaffirmed that "it is the political and moral obligation of the developed and powerful countries to co-operate in order to resolve the crisis".

They stressed the importance both countries attach to the establishment of the SELA Action Committee for Central America, pledging to give their full support to its future work. They likewise expressed their satisfaction at the recent establishment of the Latin American Special Information Services Agency (ALASEI) as a significant step in strengthening the Latin American peoples' knowledge of each other and in making it possible to show the world a true image of our countries.

They reaffirmed their support for the peace initiatives of the Contadora Group as the most viable political formula for achieving the pacification of the Central American area, by the democratic route and on the basis of the mutual understanding and the self-determination of the peoples involved in the present conflicts in Central America.

In that connection, President Ricardo de la Espriella of Panama expressly recognized Costa Rica's proclamation of active, perpetual and unarmed neutrality in the face of the warlike conflicts in which third States are involved, stressing the contribution that such neutrality makes to peace and to the political solution of the conflicts in the Central American isthmus.

They agreed to meet again, in the coming month of April, in the frontier region, with a view to assessing the progress made in attaining the objectives which are of interest to the two nations and to the Central American region.

The high-level Ministerial Groups designated by the two Presidents will meet during the coming weeks, once in Costa Rica and once in Panama, in order to prepare the summit meeting between the two Presidents in April.

President Luis Alberto Monge of Costa Rica expressed on his own behalf and on that of his official delegation their feelings of high consideration and appreciation to the Government of Panama for the respect with which it had treated them, sent greetings to the Panamanian people and thanked it for the warm hospitality with which it had always received him.

Issued and signed at Panama City, Republic of Panama, on 6 February 1984.