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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
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PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BETWEEN
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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: THREATS
TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND
PEACE INITIATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL

Thirty-ninth year

Letter dated 9 January 1984 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text of the communiqué (annex I) issued at the conclusion of the fifth joint meeting between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group and the Foreign Ministers of Central American countries, held at Panama City on 7 and 8 January 1984.

Also enclosed is the appendix to the communiqué entitled "Measures to be taken to fulfil the commitments entered into in the Document of Objectives", which was approved at the aforementioned meeting.

In addition, I have the honour to transmit the text of a statement (annex II) made by His Excellency Mr. Ricardo de la Espriella, President of the Republic of Panama, on the occasion of the adoption of the "Measures to be taken to fulfil the commitments entered into in the Document of Objectives".

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I would request you to arrange for the distribution of the communiqué, the appendix thereto and the statement of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Panama as a document of the General Assembly, 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", and of the Security Council.

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

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ANNEX I

Communiqué

On 7 and 8 January 1984, the Foreign Ministers of Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela, members of the Contadora Group, met with the Foreign Ministers of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua at Panama City, Republic of Panama.

The meeting, which was the twelfth meeting of the Contadora Group and the fifth held with the Foreign Ministers of Central American States, marked the end of the one-year period which has elapsed since the Contadora Declaration initiated the regional peace-making process. The participants stressed the fundamental role played by the Contadora process in strengthening the dialogue between the States of Central America and in the quest for a political entente in order to reach peaceful and negotiated settlements of the disputes and to restore harmony and stability in the area.

The joint meeting of Foreign Ministers laid down some specific measures for the implementation of the Document of Objectives, adopted by the Central American Governments in September 1983, on the basis of the Cancún Declaration on Peace in Central America. To this end, it adopted the document annexed hereto, entitled "Measures to be taken to fulfil the commitments entered into in the Document of Objectives", which relates to questions of regional security, political matters and co-operation in the economic and social spheres.

Panama, 8 January 1984

APPENDIX

Measures to be taken to fulfil the commitments entered into
in the Document of Objectives

The Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua,

Considering:

1. The adoption by the five Governments in September 1983 of the "Document of Objectives" as a frame of reference for the regional agreement to achieve peace,

2. The necessity of instituting measures designed to fulfil the commitments embodied therein,

Resolve:

I. To adopt the following measures for immediate application:

1. Security questions:

(a) The preparation by each of the Central American States of a register or inventory of military installations, weapons and troops, with a view to developing guidelines on a policy for their verification and reduction which sets ceilings and provides for a reasonable balance of forces in the region;

(b) The establishment of a list and timetable in each country with a view to reducing, and eventually eliminating, the presence of foreign military advisers and other outside elements participating in military or security activities;

(c) The identification and elimination of all forms of support or encouragement to and financing or toleration of irregular groups or forces engaged in destabilizing Central American Governments;

(d) The identification and disbandment of irregular groups or forces which, acting from or traversing the territory of a Central American State, participate in destabilizing actions against another Government of the region;

(e) The identification of areas, routes and channels used for illegal traffic in arms within and outside the region, so that such traffic may be stopped;

(f) The establishment of mechanisms of direct communication with a view to averting incidents between States and devising solutions in the event of the occurrence of such incidents;

2. Political matters:

(a) The promotion of national reconciliation on the basis of justice, freedom and democracy and the establishment for this purpose of machinery to facilitate dialogue between the countries of the region;

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(b) The guaranteeing of full respect for human rights and, to this end, the securing of compliance with the obligations embodied in international legal instruments and the relevant constitutional provisions;

(c) The promulgation or review of legislation on the electoral process with a view to the holding of elections that guarantee the effective participation of the people;

(d) The establishment of independent electoral bodies to prepare reliable electoral registers and to ensure that the electoral process is impartial and democratic;

(e) The issue or, where appropriate, the updating of regulations guaranteeing the existence and participation of political parties which represent the different currents of opinion;

(f) The establishment of an electoral timetable and the adoption of measures designed to ensure that the political parties participate on an equal footing;

(g) Endeavours to bring about genuine political trust between the Governments of the area in order to promote détente;

3. Economic and social questions:

(a) The strengthening of programmes of assistance to Central American refugees and the promotion of voluntary repatriation, with the co-operation of the interested Governments, in liaison and/or co-ordination with national humanitarian bodies and competent international organizations;

(b) The extension of full co-operation to the Central American Integration Bank, ECLA, the Committee for Action in Support of the Economic and Social Development of Central America and the General Treaty on Central American Integration (SIECA);

(c) Joint negotiations to obtain external resources to help revitalize Central American integration processes;

(d) The encouragement of trade within the region and the promotion of greater and better access of Central American products to the international markets;

(e) The promotion of joint investment projects;

(f) The establishment of just economic and social structures which will reinforce an authentic democratic system and give the peoples full access to the judicial system, employment, education, health and culture;

II. To authorize: the Technical Group, as advisory body of the Joint Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Central America and of the Contadora Group, to follow up the measures provided for in this document on security, political and economic and social questions. The Technical Group will report to the meeting of Ministers on the progress made in carrying out these measures;

III. To establish: in the framework of the Contadora Group, three working commissions for the purpose of preparing studies, legal drafts and recommendations concerning security and political matters and economic and social questions and of making proposals for verifying and supervising the implementation of the measures agreed upon;

The working commissions will be governed by the following rules:

(a) They will be composed of representatives of the Governments of Central America, and each country may designate up to two advisers per commission;

(b) They will be convened by the Contadora Group, which will participate in their meetings in order that it may continue to collaborate actively in the study of the assigned topics and in the preparation of agreements;

(c) Recourse to external advisers, whether the latter are experts in their individual capacity or representatives of international organizations, must be approved in advance by consensus;

(d) The working commissions will be set up by 31 January 1984 at the latest, for which purpose the participating Governments will designate their representatives and advisers and will communicate their names in due course to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama;

(e) Each commission will prepare and present its timetable and programme of work before 29 February 1984;

(f) The working commissions will carry out their tasks within the framework established by the "Document of Objectives". They will be co-ordinated by the Technical Group and will present their studies, legal drafts and recommendations to the Joint Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs by 30 April 1984 at the latest.

Panama, 8 January 1984

ANNEX II

Statement by His Excellency Mr. Ricardo de la Espriella, President
of the Republic of Panama, upon the adoption of the document
"Measures to be taken to fulfil the commitments entered into in the
Document of Objectives"

In my capacity as President of the Republic of Panama, a member country of the Contadora Group, I should like to state that I am pleased at the adoption by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Central American countries of the document entitled "Measures to be taken to fulfil the commitments entered into in the Document of Objectives".

This act represents a real advance in the negotiations undertaken with a view to the signing of legal instruments which will ensure a lasting peace in Central America. It is also a recognition of the efforts made by the Contadora Group over the past year.

We urge the Heads of State of all the Central American countries and of all other States with interests and relations in the region to exert their political influence by supporting the document entitled "Measures to be taken to fulfil the commitments entered into in the Document of Objectives" and to pledge without reservations their firm guarantees to ensure the success of this important diplomatic option for peace.

Ricardo de la Espriella
President of the Republic of Panama

Panama, 8 January 1984
