



Security Council

PROVISIONAL

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ENGLISH

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 27 July 1989, at 4.40 p.m.

President: Mr. PEJIC

(Yugoslavia)

Members: Algeria
Brazil
Canada
China
Colombia
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Malaysia
Nepal
Senegal
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland
United States of America

Mr. OUYAHIA
Mr. ALENCAR
Mr. TETU
Mr. DING Yuanhong
Mr. PEÑALOSA
Mr. GEBREMEDHIN
Ms. RASI
Mr. BLANC
Mr. GHAZZALI
Mr. RANA
Mr. BA
Mr. LOZINSKIY

Mr. BIRCH
Mr. OKUN

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The meeting was called to order at 4.40 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

CENTRAL AMERICA: EFFORTS TOWARDS PEACE

The PRESIDENT: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/20752, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of consultations in the Council. Members of the Council also have before them the report of the Secretary-General contained in document S/20699.

As agreed during the Council's prior consultations, I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution on behalf of all the members of the Council.

As members of the Council are aware, the initiative to have the draft resolution adopted in the Council was taken by some members of the Council. After very intensive and positive consultations it was possible to arrive at an agreed text that enjoys the consensus support of the members of the Security Council.

As transpired during the consultations, the primary objective of the draft resolution is to extend the Council's full support to the five Central American countries and their five Presidents to continue their efforts to achieve a firm and lasting peace in Central America.

The draft resolution also lends the full support of the Council to the Secretary-General to continue his mission of good offices in consultation with the Security Council in support of the Central American Governments in their efforts to achieve the goals set forth in the Guatemala Agreement.

(The President)

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour: Algeria, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Malaysia, Nepal, Senegal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yugoslavia.

The PRESIDENT: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 637 (1989).

I shall now call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements after the voting.

Mr. OKUN (United States of America): The United States is pleased to have joined in the adoption of this resolution supporting the Central American search for democracy and peace.

We believe the resolution reflects and supports three very important elements in the Central American peace process. They are: first, the centrality of the fulfilment of the principles and provisions of the Esquipulas and Tesoro accords to the achievement of peace and democracy in Central America; secondly, the crucial need for a free and fair election and electoral process in Nicaragua to unlock regional movement towards peace, democracy and development; and, thirdly, the fact that States which are still supplying lethal assistance to insurgent forces in the region - namely Nicaraguan and Cuban support for the FMLN - must cease this supply and declare publicly that they renounce such practices and support solely the use of political means and national reconciliation as provided for in the Esquipulas Agreement.

(Mr. Okun, United States)

The United States looks forward to the reports of the Secretary-General regarding the efforts and findings of the United Nations election observer mission to Nicaragua. We believe that the mission can strengthen the prospects for a free and fair electoral process in Nicaragua.

Although the United States has observed that, to date, the Government of Nicaragua has declined to open the political process in accord with the letter and spirit of its Esquipulas and Tesoro commitments, we applaud its decision to hold elections in February 1990, and we declare again our intention to respect the results of those elections if they are carried out in a free and fair manner.

We urge the Government of Nicaragua, therefore, to begin a positive dialogue with the opposition to set the terms of a free election. We note that the political opposition has pledged that it will participate in the elections despite its dissatisfaction with the present rules. Current practices of intimidation, therefore, are wholly counter-productive to the fulfilment of democratic principles and commitments.

Further, we call upon the Governments of Nicaragua and Cuba to cease their nine-year supply of weapons, ammunition, safe haven, and other lethal assistance to the FMLN insurgents in El Salvador. This support for irregular forces in El Salvador has cost the lives of many citizens and frustrated their desire for peace, democracy and development, and continues to undermine the Central American peace accords. Consistent with the spirit and letter of this resolution and the Esquipulas and Tesoro accords, we call upon all countries to assist the Central American Governments in ensuring full respect for human rights while they seek a peaceful settlement.

(Mr. Okun, United States)

My Government commends the efforts of the Secretary-General to further the progress towards the peace that the Central American Governments have committed themselves to achieve. The United States was therefore pleased to support the draft resolution.

The PRESIDENT: The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.

