



## Security Council

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ORIGINAL: FRENCHLETTER DATED 28 AUGUST 1989 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Security Council has examined the agreement reached on 7 August 1989 by the Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua at their meeting at Tela, Honduras, regarding a joint Plan for the voluntary demobilization, repatriation or relocation of the members of the Nicaraguan resistance and their families, as well as assistance for the demobilization of all those involved in armed actions in the countries of the region when such persons voluntarily request it (S/20778, annex I). I have since received an official request dated 14 August 1989, from their five permanent representatives, which has been issued as a Security Council document (S/20791), for the establishment, with the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, of an International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV), to be set up within 30 days of the signature of the Tela agreement, and entrusted with executing and implementing the Plan.

At a meeting which took place on Friday, 25 August 1989, at United Nations Headquarters, the Secretary General of the Organization of American States and I agreed to establish CIAV as of 6 September 1989. We wrote that day to the five heads of State informing them of the decision, and we also wrote to the five Ministers for Foreign Affairs, in their capacity as Executive Commission of the Esquipulas and subsequent agreements, to make certain comments and to give them certain details regarding the execution of, and timetable for, the Plan, and the conditions required for its successful execution.

The tasks entrusted to CIAV comprise several components of interest to various programmes of the Organization and other agencies of the system. However, the question of demobilization as such concerns the Security Council particularly, since it is an operation of a clearly military nature. CIAV is asked to collect the weapons, matériel and military equipment of members of the Nicaraguan resistance and to keep them in its custody until the five Presidents decide where they should be sent. This is not a task which can be taken on by civilian personnel of the United Nations no matter who they may be. In the view of the Secretariat, this task should be entrusted to military units equipped with defensive weapons. The launching of such an operation is clearly within the competence of the Security Council.

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I must also emphasize, as Secretary-General, that execution of this task must be envisaged on the basis of a voluntary handing over of the articles in question. It is quite clear that, prior to undertaking this task, we would take every necessary precaution to obtain the assurance that the resistance was indeed determined to agree to being demobilized. That is why we have agreed, with the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, to contact the resistance as soon as possible in order to explain to it how we interpret the Plan and our role as CIAV, and to hear what its position is on the issue.

In the light of these considerations, it would seem premature to ask the Council to take steps to establish such a force, particularly since I am not in a position to estimate its needs in personnel and in equipment. This assessment can only be made after we have undertaken a technical reconnaissance in the resistance camps, and we are not yet assured of having access to them.

I therefore propose to contact the Council later, once the conditions described in this letter have been met.

(Signed) Javier PEREZ DE CUELLAR

