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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:  
THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE  
AND SECURITY AND PEACE INITIATIVES

Letter dated 20 February 1985 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.  
of the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

With regard to the letter dated 15 February 1985 addressed to you by the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Mission of Nicaragua, which was issued as an official document of the Security Council (S/16961), 1/ I have the honour to bring to your attention the Joint Communiqué (see annex) signed by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Honduras, El Salvador and Costa Rica on 14 February 1985. This Joint Communiqué was issued at the meeting of the three Ministers held in San José, Costa Rica, on the same date. Both the Joint Communiqué and the letter of 21 January 1985 addressed to you by the undersigned, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Costa Rica, and issued as a document of the General Assembly (A/39/857) under item 25, "The situation in Central America", constitute a categorical reply to the unfounded and tendentious statements of the Government of Nicaragua.

In this connection it seems even more ironical that the Government of Nicaragua, whose Junta of National Reconstruction was in fact constituted in San José and many of whose members benefited from the right of political asylum offered to them by our Government, should forget these circumstances and assail with coarse epithets the country which offered them political asylum, a hospitable welcome and friendship. We hope that this at least will not be denounced as a "flagrant and systematic violation of the norms and principles of the right of asylum".

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I should be grateful if you would be so kind as to have this letter and the attached Joint Communiqué circulated as a document of the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 25, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jorge A. MONTERO  
Ambassador  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Notes

1/ Subsequently issued as document A/39/868.

ANNEX

Joint Communiqué

On 13 and 14 February 1985, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica, meeting at San José, at the invitation of the Costa Rican Minister for Foreign Affairs, to make a comprehensive analysis of the situation in Central America at the present time, agreed to issue the following communiqué:

1. They pointed out that the decision of the Governments of El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica not to participate in the meeting convened by the Contadora Group, which was to have taken place on 14 and 15 February at Panama City, is due to the support by the Governments of El Salvador and Honduras of the position adopted by the Government of Costa Rica in legitimate defence of the right of asylum, a basic institution of American international law, which was violated by the Government of Nicaragua, and to the fact that a meeting could not be held in the absence of one or more Central American countries.
2. They expressed regret concerning the circumstances which had compelled the Governments of Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela to postpone that meeting.
3. They expressed deep concern about the attitude of the Government of Nicaragua in having violated the right of asylum of young José Manuel Urbina Lara and in having failed to comply with the requests of the Government of Costa Rica, the Organization of American States and the Contadora Group itself to solve the problem which Nicaragua had created.
4. They reiterated the firm support of their Governments for the peace process undertaken by the Contadora Group and the praiseworthy efforts which it had been making to that end since January 1983, and reaffirmed the decision of their Governments to continue working towards a peaceful solution to the Central American crisis.
5. They declared that, together with the talks held by the Advisory Group of the three participant Governments, working meetings had been held, and would continue to be held for another day, in order to produce a document on international verification and control machinery for the eventual commitments, thus reaffirming the willingness of El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica to contribute positively to the negotiation process, since it is the final responsibility of the Central American countries themselves to agree upon, endorse and comply with the compromise formulas which will ensure a stable and lasting peace in the region. The advances made during this meeting will shortly be submitted to the Contadora Group for consideration and appropriate analysis.
6. They appealed to the Government of Nicaragua to find a satisfactory solution, as soon as possible, in the case of the asylee Urbina Lara.

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The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador and Honduras thanked the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica for the courtesies extended to them during their stay at San José.

Issued at the Casa Amarilla at 6 p.m. on 14 February 1985.

(Signed) Edgardo PAZ BARNICA  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of Honduras

(Signed) José Eduardo TENORIO  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of El Salvador

(Signed) Carlos José GUTIERREZ  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica

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