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

Letter dated 12 April 1985 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter sent by Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, President of Nicaragua, to the member countries of the Contadora Group and to other countries, in which Nicaragua replied to the proposal recently put forward by the Government of the United States of America.

I should be obliged if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 25.

(Signed) Julio ICAZA GALLARD
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Text of the letter from His Excellency Mr. Daniel Ortega Saavedra,
President of the Republic of Nicaragua, addressed to the Heads of
State of the Contadora countries and other countries

I wish to refer to the proposal made public on 4 April 1985 by Ronald Reagan, President of the United States, in connection with Nicaragua. The proposal of President Reagan, in the view of the Government of Nicaragua, constitutes not only an ultimatum and a dictatorial interference in the affairs of a sovereign country, but also an express and full recognition that the United States Government is pursuing a war of aggression against Nicaragua through an organized army directed and armed by that Government.

The United States Government has proved once more that it is promoting and executing a policy of force that is out-and-out interventionist and that, through a continuation of its unlawful conduct, it is seeking to impose its own solutions beyond the bounds of international law and without any respect for the most sacred rights of the peoples of Nicaragua and Central America. On the basis of this consistent and systematic rejection of international law, the United States Government has blocked and despised all peaceful means of solving the regional crisis, including the International Court of Justice, the talks in Manzanillo and the efforts of the Contadora Group.

Its intention to overthrow the Government of Nicaragua and crush the Sandinist Revolution is clear. On 4 April, Reagan presented a virtual ultimatum on the basis of which, if the Government of Nicaragua does not bring its domestic and foreign policy into line with the dictates of the United States Government, the latter will consider itself free to expand the war of aggression against Nicaragua, without ruling out - as senior representatives of the United States Administration have declared on numerous occasions - armed intervention.

As stated earlier, Nicaragua cannot agree to the ultimatum presented by President Reagan, nor can it accept the interventionist policy of aggression, threats and coercion aimed at making Nicaragua abandon its sovereignty, self-determination and independence. Furthermore, to accept that policy would mean not only to reduce our country to a neo-colonial status as a protectorate, but also to recognize a breach of international law and the triumph of an illegal policy of force, thereby seriously disrupting the present international legal order and, hence, the entire system so arduously built up in order to provide a better guarantee of international peace and security and the rights of all nations; to accept the ultimatum would mean simply to accept the law of the jungle in international relations and to endanger the sovereign future of the nations of Latin America and the third world.

As part of its warlike policy and its determination to isolate Nicaragua, the United States Government is again seeking to induce the countries of the Contadora Group and other Latin American and European nations to underwrite its

interventionist and bellicose plan. In these circumstances, Nicaragua trusts that the countries of the Contadora Group will maintain intact the principles which engendered and form the basis of that Latin American peace initiative, especially non-intervention, and rejection of the use and threat of force, in other words, the basic principles on which international peace and security rest.

A reaffirmation of the validity of these principles is all the more necessary since the so-called "Reagan Plan" gravely threatens the peace efforts of the Contadora Group. To his refusal to accept the Act of September 1984, President Reagan is now seeking, with the threat of a deadline, to add his solutions of force and to dissipate the hopes for peace and the Contadora negotiating process.

The Government of Nicaragua, since the triumph of the 1979 Revolution, has been characterized by its efforts to promote dialogue and a negotiated solution to international disputes, having on many occasions put forward separate peace initiatives, which need not be enumerated now. The framework for all these initiatives has always been a strict respect for the norms and principles of the United Nations Charter and international law, particularly the principles of non-intervention, sovereign equality, the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States, and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Our country has also been at pains to ensure that it faithfully complies with all those principles, while insisting that the same principles should be faithfully respected with regard to Nicaragua. From that standpoint, we have always regarded as promising all the efforts directed towards finding a negotiated, peaceful settlement to the regional crisis, including direct dialogue among the Governments involved, and have simply demanded respect for international norms.

Consequently, our Government does not wish our honourable position whereby we reject the ultimatum to be interpreted as a rejection of dialogue. We have always shown ourselves to be in favour of dialogue, which should always be the first line of recourse in order to resolve conflict situations and guarantee international peace and security. I therefore consider this an appropriate opportunity to reiterate once more:

1. Our steadfast support and backing for the Contadora negotiating process. Nicaragua reaffirms its deep conviction that this Latin American-inspired process constitutes a real alternative for peace and should be preserved and strengthened;

2. Our demand that the United States should immediately resume the bilateral talks in Manzanillo, which it unilaterally suspended. Manzanillo should be utilized in order to lay the foundations for normalizing relations between Nicaragua and the United States whereby the latter may put forward its proposals and Nicaragua will also submit its own peace plan. These proposals should be the subject of the Manzanillo dialogue.

At the present juncture it is necessary to reinforce Latin American solidarity, strengthening one of the great principles born in our continent, the principle of non-intervention. Any other position would bring about the final

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breakdown of the efforts of the Contadora Group, causing a major setback and seriously damaging the sovereignty and independence not only of the Nicaraguan people but of all Latin American peoples.

(Signed) Daniel ORTEGA SAAVEDRA
President of the Republic
of Nicaragua
