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The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development**Letter dated 19 November 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I send herewith, for your information, the latest official communiqué issued by the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity of the Republic of Nicaragua, dated 19 November 2015, concerning the serious incidents that have occurred on our southern border with Costa Rica (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, relating to agenda item 43.

(Signed) Jaime **Hermida Castillo**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



**Annex to the letter dated 19 November 2015 from the
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to
the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Communiqué

The Government of Reconciliation and National Unity of the Republic of Nicaragua, denounces before the international community, the systematic policy of obstruction being pursued by the Government of Costa Rica in the Central American Integration System, where it has refused to include any discussion on the irregular and illegal emigration of Cuban citizens, thousands of whom are travelling across our lands, as a programme topic.

While fully assuming its responsibilities, Nicaragua has denounced the arrogance and overbearing attitude shown by Costa Rica, which, by flouting international law and the agreements to which we are all signatories, has violated Nicaraguan territory, threatened and blocked international trade and freight, and is concentrating more Cuban citizens at our southern border, in an attempt to pressurize and blackmail the Government of Nicaragua.

The Government of Nicaragua considers that these Cuban citizens have as much right to an ineptly named “humanitarian” corridor, as all Central American citizens would have, and in fact do have — including children, who are exposed to all types of risk, and some of whom die, in their quest to reach the United States.

It also reiterates that this illegal Cuban emigration, which puts at risk those who travel this route to the illusion of the North American paradise, does not get sent back in hundreds and thousands, as happens every week with the women, children, young people, and families who try to reach the United States from Central America; and who have been and continue to be separated and incarcerated in so-called holding camps, thereby splitting up families still further. Because often mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters, children, grandchildren, are “selected”, and then returned, by different routes, to our countries, without any “humanitarian” appreciation of, or consideration for, family ties.

By denouncing the inconsistent, illegitimate and capricious actions of the Government of Costa Rica, which is posing as victim in this situation and as the defender of emigrants’ rights, the Government of Nicaragua insists that it is in the Central American Integration System that this sensitive issue should be discussed in the first instance. Clear responsibilities must be established for those who promote these inhuman waves of emigration, whose intent, as declared by the migrants themselves, is political, and has been politicized to the benefit of those who promote and applaud it.

Nicaragua believes that we in Central America should stand firm in demanding reciprocity from the United States, in other words the same, identical, “humanitarian” treatment to our migrants, who continue to be classified as second- and third-class citizens.

We stand with the Presidents and Governments of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, in demanding decent conditions and treatment for our humble migrants, who risk everything to travel in search of the work they cannot find in our small countries, particularly when a large proportion of our resources is earmarked and

used to strengthen the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime, the underlying cause of which we Central Americans are also not responsible for.

Nicaragua once again calls for serious and fraternal discussion of these issues, in the Central American Integration System in the first instance; and decent, fair, humanitarian and genuinely considerate treatment, for the thousands and/or millions of citizens from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and other nations who continuously put their lives at risk while struggling to attain the increasingly distant “American dream”.

We continue to believe that the overbearing and capricious attitude of Costa Rica must not be allowed to impede dialogue and discussion of these highly sensitive issues. It should be a priority in such discussions to ensure that the dignity and fair treatment being claimed for illegal Cuban emigration (which evokes the misnomer of a “humanitarian corridor”), is also demanded for our humble Central American migrants, who include thousands of children who run serious risks not only in their journey, but also on arrival and during their compulsory or forced return.

On 26 November Nicaragua will participate responsibly in the meeting of the Security Committee of the Central American Integration System; and it will take due note of any mandate that emanates from our integration organization, to continue discussing, seriously and responsibly, an issue that is painful but also profoundly linked to the existence of the so-called “Adjustment” Act, which is denounced and rejected as unjust by the international community.

Managua, 19 November 2015
Government of Reconciliation and National Unity
