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

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fourth year

Letter dated 11 December 1989 from the Permanent Representative of the
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward the text of a statement by the Soviet Government dated 9 December 1989.

I should be grateful if you would have it distributed as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

A. BELONOGOV

ANNEX

Statement by the Soviet Government dated 9 December 1989

The extreme exacerbation of the situation in Central America is causing serious concern. Irrespective of the reasons for the current dangerous build-up of tension in the region, it is becoming increasingly clear that urgent and effective steps must be taken to normalize the situation. The parties directly involved in the conflict, other States with an interest in a swift and peaceful settlement, and the United Nations and the Organization of American States are taking steps designed to further the search for ways of defusing the crisis situation. As a result of these efforts, it has been agreed that the Presidents of the five Central American States will meet in San José.

The Soviet Union welcomes this meeting, reaffirming its unvarying stance in favour of a peaceful, political solution to the problem in the region. The basic principles of such a solution have been laid down in the agreements and undertakings reached at earlier meetings between the leaders of the Central American countries. Complete adherence to all the commitments given by the States involved in the conflict is an imperative condition for the establishment of lasting peace in the region.

In the view of the Soviet Government, priority now attaches to the implementation of the undertakings to hold free and democratic elections in Nicaragua, for which preparations are going ahead strictly as agreed, to disband the Nicaraguan armed opposition and to end the civil war in El Salvador. In order to accomplish these aims it is essential that States outside the region should also support the settlement process, or at least not obstruct it.

The problem of stockpiled weapons in the countries of the region takes on especial importance in these circumstances. The Soviet Union has not only proposed the cessation of arms supplies, wherever they may come from, to these countries, but has unilaterally suspended such supplies to Nicaragua. Similar restraint by other countries and an end to military assistance for the irregular forces and insurrectionist movements, as called for by the five Central American Presidents and the United Nations Security Council, would undoubtedly hasten the efforts to dampen this dangerously tense situation. At the same time, evidently, negotiations between the countries of the region on reductions in armed forces and weapons, as called for in the Guatemala agreements, must not be put off.

It is the Soviet Union's belief that the specific ways and means of normalizing the situation must be decided upon by the Central Americans themselves. If, however, they consider that other States might be of any assistance, such assistance must be given.

The Soviet Government hopes that all participants in the San José meeting will again display good will, a sense of responsibility and a willingness to compromise in order to end the bloodshed and bring peace and stability to Central America. For its part, the USSR will go on providing every support for efforts to attain these objectives, and is ready to work with all States, without exception, to this end.
