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

Letter dated 23 December 1989 from the Permanent Representative of
Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I hereby transmit for your information a letter addressed to the President of the Security Council (see annex).

I should like to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alejandro SERRANO CALDERA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 23 December 1989 from the Permanent Representative
of Nicaragua addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey to you in your capacity as President of the Security Council the concern of the Government of Nicaragua at the inexplicable delays that have occurred in the Security Council during the consideration of the extremely serious situation resulting from the invasion of the Republic of Panama by the United States of America.

In the present case, the Council has devoted most of its efforts to a procedural matter, neglecting the substantive issue and performing functions appropriate to a credentials committee. It can escape no one's attention that it is in the interests of the Government of the United States, a permanent member of the Security Council, to prevent consideration by the Council of the question of the invasion and to delay as long as possible the consideration of and action on the draft resolution submitted to the Council by members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

I should like to reiterate that the Government of Nicaragua, as you are well aware and as indicated by our delegation in a letter addressed to you on 20 December 1989, has called for this meeting in order for the Council to consider the extremely grave situation following the invasion of the Republic of Panama by United States forces, which is undoubtedly a matter of the utmost gravity and, consequently, must be treated as such without delay, in conformity with the responsibilities conferred on the Council under the Charter of the United Nations.

The United States invasion of Panama is an extremely serious matter and represents a grave threat to international peace and security in general and, in particular, to the Central American region, having as it does a direct, profound and incalculable effect on inter-American relations, especially the Central American peace plan. The Permanent Council of the Organization of American States, bearing in mind the gravity of this situation, on 22 December 1989 specifically requested the withdrawal of the military forces which had intervened in Panama.

It is well known to all that the United States Government is continuing to escalate its actions against the occupied country and to increase substantially the number of its occupation troops, while the Security Council continues its consideration of credentials.

Our delegation deems it relevant to recall that several months ago it called upon this Council to take preventive measures with respect to the situation in Panama, without any action having been taken by the Council. In these circumstances, we consider it necessary to point out that the Charter of the United Nations, in Article 24, paragraphs 1 and 2, states the following:

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"1. In order to ensure prompt and effective action by the United Nations, its Members confer on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and agree that in carrying out its duties under this responsibility the Security Council acts on their behalf.

"2. In discharging these duties the Security Council shall act in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations. The specific powers granted to the Security Council for the discharge of these duties are laid down in Chapters VI, VII, VIII, and XII."

Accordingly, our delegation considers that the Council has not acted in conformity with the aforementioned paragraphs, which are designed to ensure prompt and effective action, in the context of the Council's primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security; in the present circumstances, this could create a dangerous precedent with regard to solving the various conflicts in the world.

We therefore hope that the consideration of credentials will cease to be the focus of the deliberations, thereby removing the principal obstacle to urgent consideration of the substantive issue which, as you are aware, was the reason for the request made by Nicaragua to this body.

(Signed) Alejandro SERRANO CALDERA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
