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LETTER DATED 9 MAY 1985 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF EL SALVADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

I am writing to you to request you to circulate this letter containing the "Declaration of San Salvador", which was issued at that city on 7 May 1985. The relevant text of the Declaration is the following:

"The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras and the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, meeting at the city of San Salvador in order to analyse the situation prevailing in the Central American region, to determine jointly the appropriate peaceful machinery for resolving the present crisis and to review the results obtained from the peace initiative promoted by the Contadora Group,

Consider:

1. That in order to provide a permanent guarantee of regional peace and security and to promote the welfare and development of their peoples, it is essential that the principles and norms of international law should be strictly observed.
2. That a fundamental requirement for the achievement of peace in Central America is the signing of multilateral international instruments that will lay down the rules for coexistence between the States of the area, on the basis that the sovereign power to formulate the alternatives for a solution rests with the Central American countries, with the valuable assistance of the Contadora Group.
3. That the success of a stable peace in Central America must have as its starting point the existence of a strong political will on the part of the Governments of the area to support, and to participate actively in, the efforts to improve and consolidate genuine democratic, representative and pluralistic processes.
4. That the complex economic situation of the region, produced by internal and external factors, aggravates the panorama of social and political crisis and is an obstacle to the well-being of its peoples, making it necessary to take steps that can bring a solution of the aforementioned problems.

Accordingly, they

Declare:

1. The political will of their Governments to settle their differences by using peaceful methods of solution.

2. The reiterated and firm support of their Governments for the action of the Contadora Group, emphasizing the importance of direct participation by the Central American countries in the negotiating and drafting of any agreement that may be adopted.

3. That the security and integrity of the Central American countries require, in the present circumstances, a restoration of military balance between the States of the region, and to that end, all must renounce the aim of gaining military superiority.

4. That it is essential to adopt specific measures for halting the arms race, by establishing maximum limits on military development in the region, prior to the entry into force of the undertakings assumed in the Contadora Act on Peace and Co-operation in Central America. Similarly, it is urgent to end the expansionist interventionism which is attempting by violence and subversion to destabilize democratic institutions in the Central American countries.

5. That it is therefore necessary to complete the negotiation of the arrangements relating to security matters, especially those concerned with verification and control mechanisms, contained in the drafts submitted in the context of the Contadora Group's initiative, including the Tequiquilpa document of October 1984 and the March 1985 Statute of the Verification and Control Mechanism for Security Matters.

6. That they support all measures aimed at achieving democratic and pluralistic development in the Central American region as the most appropriate way to achieve peace and social justice.

7. That in order to achieve peace in Central America, there must be, in all the countries where profound divisions in society have arisen, actions taken within the established legal order that are aimed at achieving national reconciliation, for the purpose of ensuring that all social sectors participate fully in the establishment and improvement of genuine democratic processes.

To that end, they consider it indispensable to reaffirm and strengthen the political undertakings contained in the Contadora Act, as well as to recognize the urgent need to improve the verification mechanisms and rules of application that will ensure their faithful and strict observance.

8. That the progress of proposed economic co-operation processes, especially the planned agreement with the European Communities which would be the culmination of the process begun at the San José Conference held in September 1984, is a matter of great interest.

9. That it is necessary to support any action that will promote democratic and pluralistic development in Central America and to evaluate objectively those recent events which have a direct impact on the regional crisis."

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Mauricio ROSALES
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

