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

Letter dated 27 June 1985 from the Permanent Representative  
of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

I have the honour to request that this communication concerning the statements, notes and official and press communiqués which the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua is constantly circulating be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 25, and of the Security Council.

With the utmost respect for the distinguished representation of that sister country, the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica makes the following statement.

1. In the view of the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica, the mechanism of notes to the Secretary-General for circulation to all other missions should be utilized with some restraint and should be confined to events of real political or diplomatic importance; they should not be used for every biased opinion, editorial or communiqué of a propagandistic nature produced by organs serving the public opinion apparatus of a particular Government, irrespective of its ideological line.

2. So far as the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica is concerned that is the line of conduct we will follow and we will therefore refrain from following the example of the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua and from referring to each and every of its many endless notes and communications, save when they refer to events of bilateral or multilateral importance in the context of the negotiations which are being carried out in the Central American region with the assistance of the Contadora Group or which relate to formal agreements or official communications of competent international organs lawfully recognized by the parties.

3. In that regard and in response to the latest communications from the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua, the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica points out that:

(a) On 7 June, the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States, convened at the request of Costa Rica, decided to charge Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela, with the assistance of the Secretary-General of OAS, with investigating the events that occurred on the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua on 31 May and that resulted in the death of two Costa Rican gendarmes;

(b) The report of this investigation will be submitted to the Permanent Council of OAS;

(c) To that end, representatives of the distinguished Governments of Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela and Secretary-General Baena Soares of OAS, assisted by appropriate advisers, travelled through the border zone between Costa Rica and Nicaragua for several days, gathering evidence and hearing testimony and the versions of both the Nicaraguan and the Costa Rican authorities, particularly in the Crucitas zone and in Rio San Juan;

(d) Strict secrecy has characterized the development of the first phase of the investigation which concluded on Friday, 21 June. The final report will be drafted in the next few days in Washington, D.C., headquarters of the Organization of American States. It is believed that the report will not be presented to the Permanent Council of OAS until some time in the first half of July.

4. These are the objective facts. As a matter of politeness and out of elementary respect for the official representatives of the distinguished Governments of Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela and for the Secretary-General of OAS, it is the view of the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica that we should await their conclusions and the findings of their report. Neither the Government nor the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua have anything to gain by constantly resorting to the mechanism of notes to the Secretary-General to circulate to all missions accredited in New York, communications, statements and biased views regarding the events which occurred in the border zone and value judgements regarding Costa Rica and its official authorities. As the President of Costa Rica pointed out in a recently published statement, elementary diplomatic procedure would call for us to wait and trust that the distinguished Governments of Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela, with the assistance of the Secretary-General of OAS, will produce a fair report for the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States.

(Signed) Fernando BERROCAL  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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