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

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE
STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS
BETWEEN STATES

PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES

Letter dated 17 July 1985 from the permanent representatives
of El Salvador and Honduras to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you the text of the Joint Statement (see annex) signed at La Paz, Republic of Honduras, on 11 July 1985 by His Excellency the President of the Republic of El Salvador, Mr. José Napoleón Duarte, and His Excellency the President of the Republic of Honduras, Mr. Roberto Suazo Córdova, at the end of the official visit made by the former to the Republic of Honduras on 10 and 11 July 1985.

* A/40/150.

We request you to arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 21, 72, 84, 132 and 133 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Mauricio ROSALES
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of El Salvador to the
United Nations

(Signed) H. Hoberto HERRERA CACERES
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Honduras to the
United Nations

ANNEX

JOINT STATEMENT

The President of the Republic of El Salvador, Mr. José Napoleón Duarte, and the President of the Republic of Honduras, Mr. Roberto Suazo Córdova, met together at La Paz, Honduras, on 10 and 11 July 1985, accompanied by the following persons: for El Salvador: Mr. Jorge Eduardo Tenorio, Minister of the Presidency; General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova, Minister of Defence and Public Security; Mr. Ricardo Acevedo Peralta, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs; and General Adolfo O. Blandón, Head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and for Honduras: Mr. Ubodoro Arriaga Iraheta, Minister of the Presidency; Mr. Edgardo Paz Barnica, Minister for Foreign Affairs; General Walter López Reyes, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces; and Colonel Efraín Lisandro González Muñoz, Head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces. They examined in a democratic and brotherly spirit the changes which have occurred in the Central American situation over the past few months and the more important features of their bilateral relations.

At the end of the meeting, the Presidents signed the following Joint Statement.

1. The President of the Republic of Honduras expresses his satisfaction with the visit of the President of the Republic of El Salvador and the accompanying distinguished Salvadorians and is gratified by the cordiality in which the talks unfolded.

2. Both leaders express their grave concern at the deterioration of the Central American situation, which is due to: (a) the armed actions provoked by the Government of Nicaragua on its borders with Honduras and Costa Rica; and (b) the stubbornness of the Sandinist Government in blocking the continuation of the global negotiations in which the five Central American Governments, with the assistance of the Contadora Group and the support of the international community, are engaged.

Accordingly, they call upon the Government of Nicaragua: to abandon its policy of confrontation and use of force; to return to the multilateral negotiating table in order to assume commitments in the matter of effective disarmament and, in particular, on the limits and timetables for reductions of weapons, military installations, armed personnel and foreign military and security advisers; to carry out internal reconciliation processes that ensure respect for political pluralism; and to establish effective verification and surveillance machinery in the political, security and economic and social spheres.

3. They express their profound sense of indignation at and their censure of the escalation of terrorism in Central America and throughout the world. They repeat their firm belief that such problems must be combated through an increased international solidarity which advocates respect for human rights and compliance with the relevant international conventions, the ratification of or accession to which is recommended in the draft Contadora Act.

4. They state their desire to impart a decisive political momentum in order to facilitate the reaching of agreements, through direct negotiations, on all the disputes concerning land, island and maritime territory outstanding between the two States before the date set for the ending of the direct negotiations, in full conformity with the provisions of the General Peace Treaty of 30 October 1980.

They also agree to give instructions to the respective national sections of the Mixed Boundaries Commission in order that, on the basis of the various proposals presented by the parties, and with a view to harmonizing approaches, they may renew their efforts and in the course of the Commission's forthcoming meetings submit to each Government the documents incorporating the agreements, in accordance with the procedures established in the General Peace Treaty.

5. They express their full support for the procedures which their two Governments have established in co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other international organizations, in particular with respect to the prompt activation of a tripartite commission for the purpose of facilitating the repatriation of the Salvadorian refugees temporarily living in Honduras who, because of the current strengthening of democratic institutions in El Salvador, are afforded the necessary conditions and legal guarantees for a safe return to their homeland.

6. They express their faith in the future of friendly co-operation between the peoples of El Salvador and Honduras and decide to entrust to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of both countries the task of initiating talks, in which senior officials of other government agencies could be associated, with a view to examining the establishment of co-operation machinery, expert commissions and meetings of parliamentarians and representatives of the social and economic sectors of El Salvador and Honduras, thereby paving the way for joint programmes of mutual interest and benefit.

7. They also examined the status of bilateral trade relations and the general situation of economic relations in Central America and are of the view that every effort must be made to overcome the difficulties which have arisen in the field of commercial exchanges because of the exchange-rate and payments systems, by seeking solutions which will guarantee the sustained growth of the economies of both countries.

8. They note the full support which the representatives of the armed forces of both countries present at the current historic presidential meeting have expressed for the measures and policy decisions adopted in this Joint Statement.

9. The President of the Republic of El Salvador thanked the President of the Republic of Honduras for the courtesies which were extended to him and his party and expressed his particular satisfaction with the fact that the friendly meeting had taken place at La Paz.

10. Lastly, the two leaders expressed the hope that the meeting would be conducive to the strengthening of regional peace and harmony and would also provide an example worthy of emulation in the achievement of such lofty goals in Central America.

(Signed) José Napoleón DUARTE
President of El Salvador

(Signed) Roberto Suazo CORDOVA
President of Honduras

La Paz, 11 July 1985
