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of the provisional agenda\*

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

SECURITY COUNCIL

Fortieth year

Letter dated 27 August 1985 from the Permanent Representative of  
Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the communiqué issued by Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group and of the Support Group composed of the Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay at the conclusion of the meeting held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 24 and 25 August 1985.

I request you, Sir, to circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under items 21, 72, 84, 132 and 133 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) David SAMUDIO, Jr.  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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\* A/40/150.

ANNEX

Communiqué by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group and of the Support Group composed of Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay issued at Cartagena on 25 August 1985

On 24 and 25 August 1985, at the invitation of the President of the Republic of Colombia, Dr. Belisario Betancur, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela met with the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay with the firm purpose of considering the modalities of the support the Governments of the latter countries will provide for the negotiations for peace in Central America which the Contadora Group has been conducting. The decision to this effect stems from their determination to strengthen by action the support they have to date been providing the Group. The establishment by these countries of a mechanism of support for the Contadora Group constitutes in this sense a new expression of Latin America's political will and capacity for concerted action to deal with regional problems from a regional perspective.

The meeting confirmed the serious concern which exists among the Latin American countries regarding the Central American crisis and the decision to strengthen through concrete action, in firm regional unity, the efforts at diplomatic negotiation promoted by the Contadora Group. In Central America today fundamental questions are being debated which affect its democratic, free and independent development. Unless a peaceful and negotiated solution is found, this conflict will affect the political and social stability of Latin America as a whole.

Accordingly, the Ministers stressed that there was no question of seeking stopgap solutions or of allowing incidental pretexts to divert attention from the crucial problems of the Central American crisis. The task was to find substantive and lasting solutions to the central conflicts of the region. They stated that efforts and actions designed to bring about peace should be undertaken with an eye to the future and in conformity with the objectives of solidarity, independence and justice which have been a constant aspiration of the peoples of Latin America. In the search for these solutions, time is of the essence.

In this context, Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay initiated at Cartagena their activities as a support mechanism for the Contadora Group which will perform the following tasks:

Systematic exchange of information with a view to enriching the appraisal of Central American problems and identifying means of promoting their solution;

Consultation for the purpose of facilitating co-ordination of diplomatic action which would advance the Contadora negotiating process;

Diplomatic approaches in support of the Contadora Group to:

Central American Governments;

The Governments of countries with links and interests in the region;

Other Governments concerned for the peaceful solution of the conflict in the region;

International organizations, primarily the United Nations and the Organization of American States;

Promotion of the early conclusion and signing of the Contadora Act for Peace and Co-operation in Central America as a juridical instrument which will embody the political commitment to the reaching of agreement in the region;

Facilitation of the effective implementation of the Contadora Act.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs:

(a) Agreed in their assessment that the growing deterioration of the situation in the region makes it necessary for the agreements contained in the Contadora Act for Peace and Co-operation in Central America to be signed. Likewise, they deemed it indispensable to advance the other actions outlined by the Contadora Group at its meeting of 21 and 22 July 1985 in order to avoid a generalized conflict which would seriously affect the States of the region and would have consequences for the hemisphere as a whole;

(b) Placed on record their conviction that the solution to the problems of Central America cannot be arrived at by means of force, but through dialogue and political and diplomatic negotiations, as the Contadora Group has constantly advocated. This does not involve introducing a substitute for the will of any country, but, rather, offering viable alternatives which will provide a reasonable framework of security and permit the reaching of just, effective and lasting agreements;

(c) Agreed that it is essential to defuse the most dangerous real and potential conflicts which are now apparent. They recognized that the roots of these conflicts lie in economic and social inequality and in structures which restrict free expression and popular participation in the political processes in which the essential aspirations of each society are embodied;

(d) Emphasized that the negotiations of the Contadora Group should be directed integrally towards promoting commitments both in the political field and in the sphere of security and development co-operation and towards avoiding the regional conflict becoming a part of the East-West confrontation;

(e) Agreed on the importance of the countries with links and interests in the region making a genuine contribution to overcoming the problems with which this strife-torn part of our continent is faced, and on the need for them to do so;

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(f) Discussed the dramatic deterioration the Central American economies have experienced in recent years as a product of factors, stemming from the international situation, which have a particularly adverse impact on the countries concerned and are dramatically aggravated by the political and social upheavals the region is undergoing;

(g) Agreed that the economic crisis and the political crisis are interrelated, and that it is accordingly necessary to move ahead simultaneously with the attainment of peace and political détente on the one hand and with economic reactivation on the other.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay reiterated their conviction that the process of negotiation by the Contadora Group constitutes the sole viable course for the attainment of peace and the re-establishment of harmony and co-operation between the Central American States.

For their part, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela stress the importance of the new expression of Latin American solidarity represented by the establishment of the Contadora Support Group by the Governments of four countries which are vigorously involved in the democratic life of the region. They expressed their special recognition and appreciation of this contribution.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela thanked the President of the Republic of Colombia, Dr. Belisario Betancur, for his message of guidance and his personal contribution in opening the meeting. They likewise thanked the Government of Colombia for the hospitality extended to them during their stay in the historic city of Cartagena, which contributed to the successful conduct of the meeting.

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