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LETTER DATED 20 APRIL 1990 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In response to your request, I attach, for circulation as a document of the Security Council, the text of the statement which I made in informal consultations of the Security Council yesterday, 19 April 1990.

(Signed) Javier PEREZ de CUELLAR

ANNEX

Statement by the Secretary-General in informal consultations
of the Security Council held on 19 April 1990

Thank you for convening this informal meeting of the Security Council. It gives me the opportunity to describe to the Council recent developments relating to the voluntary demobilization of the Nicaraguan Resistance and to seek the Council's approval for the action I propose to take in order to enable ONUCA to play the role envisaged for it in this process.

It gives me great pleasure to inform the members of the Security Council that early this morning in Managua, following an all night meeting, a series of agreements were signed which establish a cease-fire, security zones and a timetable for the voluntary demobilization of the members of the Nicaraguan Resistance. The participants in the meeting were the Government of Nicaragua, representatives of the President-elect, representatives of the northern, central and Atlantic fronts of the Nicaraguan Resistance and the Archbishop of Managua, Cardinal Obando Y Bravo. The Chief Military Observer of ONUCA and my alternate personal representative for the Central American peace process also took part but did not sign the agreements.

The main points in the agreements relating to the northern and central fronts are as follows:

- (A) A cease-fire which came into effect at 12 noon local time today and which the parties wish to be monitored by ONUCA in co-operation with Cardinal Obando Y Bravo;
- (B) The establishment of five security zones, to which the members of the Nicaraguan Resistance will move immediately, this movement to be completed by 25 April;
- (C) Withdrawal of the military and security forces of the Government of Nicaragua from the security zones and from locations within 20 kilometres of the boundaries of the zones, this withdrawal to be completed by 21 April and monitored by ONUCA in co-operation with Cardinal Obando Y Bravo;
- (D) Provision of humanitarian aid by CIAV to the members of the Nicaraguan Resistance as soon as they reach the security zones;
- (E) Complete demobilization of the members of the Nicaraguan Resistance by ONUCA during the period from 25 April to 10 June.

The provisions of the agreements relating to the Atlantic front are broadly speaking the same, except that only two security zones will be established in this area and the timetable is somewhat different, with demobilization to be carried out in the period 8 to 18 May.

It is hoped that a similar agreement will be signed shortly with representatives of the southern front, thus covering all main elements in the Nicaraguan Resistance.

The arrangements agreed by the various Nicaraguan parties constitute an important step forward and in my view are practicable and acceptable. As, however, they differ in certain respects from those envisaged in my report of 15 March (S/21194), I have thought it right to inform the members of the Council of the main differences. These are: first, the formal cease-fire and separation of forces; secondly, the fact that the security zones are to be considerably larger than the temporary assembly points envisaged in my report; and thirdly, the fact that CIAV will provide humanitarian assistance to the members of the Nicaraguan Resistance as soon as they arrive in the security zones, i.e., before demobilization is complete.

The functions which the Nicaraguan parties have asked that ONUCA should perform can be summarized as:

- (A) Monitoring the cease-fire and the separation of forces which will result from withdrawal of the Nicaraguan Government's forces from the security zones and the surrounding areas;
- (B) Taking delivery of, and destroying, the weapons, matériel and military equipment, including military uniforms of the members of the Nicaraguan Resistance as described in my previous reports to the Security Council.

The second of these functions is already included in the expanded mandate for ONUCA which was approved by the Security Council in resolution 650 (1990). The first, however, namely monitoring the cease-fire and the separation of forces, will constitute a further addition to ONUCA's mandate and will thus require the approval of the Security Council. I am accordingly writing to you today, Mr. President, to seek this approval. I have meanwhile instructed the Chief Military Observer to make the necessary preparations for the deployment of as many as possible of ONUCA's existing strength of military observers to Nicaragua for this purpose, as soon as the Council's approval has been given. I need not stress the urgency of this matter, for the members of the Council will have noted that the cease-fire has already come into effect.

In this connection, there is also an urgent need to deploy the Phase IV military observers. Four Member States have told me informally that they are ready in principle to make the necessary officers available. Having today established that none of the five Central American countries has any objection to this proposed change in the composition of ONUCA, I will now write to you, Mr. President, to seek the Council's approval.

As regards the demobilization of the members of the Nicaraguan Resistance, the agreement achieved today, in my judgement, meets the requirement stated in my report of 15 March that the necessary political conditions should be fulfilled, namely an agreement by all concerned for the voluntary demobilization of the members of the Nicaraguan Resistance before ONUCA could carry out the role envisaged for it.

S/21259

English

Page 4

I have accordingly instructed the Chief Military Observer to move to Nicaragua, over the coming weekend, as many as he can spare of the company of Venezuelan infantry at present deployed in Honduras. They will now assist in the demobilization of the members of the Nicaraguan Resistance in Nicaragua, having carried out that operation in Honduras on 16 and 18 April as planned. I also propose to ask the Venezuelan Government to deploy the second company of their infantry battalion to Central America over the weekend. Finally, I am seeking the earliest possible budgetary authority from the ACABQ for the remainder of the Venezuelan battalion to be deployed next week.

As stated in my report to the Security Council of 15 March, the voluntary demobilization of the Nicaraguan Resistance is an essential element in the Central American peace process. I believe that the agreement reached earlier today provides a means of achieving that long-awaited goal and I am confident that this view will be shared by the members of the Security Council and that they will agree to a further expansion of ONUCA's mandate to enable it to monitor the cease-fire and separation of forces.

I shall continue to report regularly to the members of the Security Council as this process develops.

