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

Letter dated 20 June 1990 from the representatives of Costa Rica,  
El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua to the United  
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the Antigua Declaration, signed in the city of Antigua, Guatemala, on 17 June 1990, by the Presidents of the Republics of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, and by the President of Panama in his capacity as an invited observer, at the conclusion of the meeting which they held on 15, 16 and 17 June 1990. We are also enclosing the Central American Economic Plan of Action which was adopted at the same meeting (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would arrange for both texts to be circulated as official documents of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34.

(Signed) Emilia CASTRO de BARISH  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.  
Permanent Mission of Costa Rica  
to the United Nations

(Signed) Guillermo A. MELENDEZ-BARAHONA  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.  
Permanent Mission of El Salvador  
to the United Nations

(Signed) Francisco VILLAGRAN DE LEON  
Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Guatemala  
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(Signed) Roberto FLORES BERMUDEZ  
Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Honduras  
to the United Nations

(Signed) William VIGIL BLACK  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.  
Permanent Mission of Nicaragua  
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Antigua Declaration

"Que todos se levanten, que se llame a todos,  
que no haya un grupo, ni dos grupos de entre nosotros  
que se quede atrás de los demás."

Popol Yuh

We the Presidents of the Republics of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, with the President of Panama in attendance, meeting in the city of Antigua, Guatemala, on 15, 16 and 17 June 1990, reaffirm the position stated in the joint declarations adopted at the Esquipulas I and II meetings, to the effect that there can be no peace without development.

We have sought to foster regional understanding and to employ our best endeavours for the achievement of peace and democracy in Central America. Now we must press forward in our quest for a Central America that has achieved development and is able on its own to satisfy the basic needs of each and every one of its inhabitants. We see integration as the means of achieving this development and our aspirations are for a Central America that is linked to the world on the basis of fruitful and respectful interdependence.

This road to peace through development requires us to face the future with hope and with energy and imagination to undertake efforts to promote development and economic growth providing for a broader and fairer distribution of the benefits of growth. Only in this way can the vicious circle of poverty and frustration be broken. War and violence are acts of human cruelty, but poverty is an act of human abandonment which we must face up to. Violence is beginning to be a part of a past which we shall not forget but which we must not repeat, and we are now embarking upon other paths.

Accordingly, we have understood the people's cry and we have affirmed that we do not want any more war and violence; instead, we wish to see the same kind of energy devoted to the best interests of the development of the Central American people. We reaffirm that "we have our own approaches to peace and development" and we are prepared to pursue those approaches, relying first and foremost on our own efforts, but our task will be facilitated if we receive generous support from the international community.

Together we wish to outline fundamental policies to guide our development process and, subsumed under the latter, the process of economic integration. In this endeavour, we want to take the necessary decisions and embark upon the courses of action that will make us responsible agents of our own growth and effective partners in co-operation. This will require the efficient operation of our regional system.

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The creation of an economic community of the Central American isthmus requires that each and every one of us take part, that no one be left behind. We therefore call upon the various private groups, associations, co-operatives, professional, trade union, religious, cultural and development organizations, the communications media and on the entire population at every level and within their respective spheres to join creatively in the common endeavour so that we may press forward with the broadly shared conviction that there is a need for a united Central America and full participation by the people in development efforts and in the benefits of development.

#### Preamble

We the Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, with the President of Panama in attendance, meeting in the city of Antigua, Guatemala, a historic colonial site of the Americas, on 15, 16 and 17 June 1990,

Reaffirming the full relevance of the Esquipulas and subsequent agreements and our commitment to continue to implement those agreements in order to consolidate the progress that has already been made,

Welcoming the positive progress in fulfilling the commitments undertaken by the five Central American countries in the Esquipulas process,

Reaffirming that the primary responsibility for solving development problems rests with the peoples and Governments of Central America, imbued with the commitment to consolidate peace and democracy and individually and collectively to forge a better economic and social future for Central America,

Aware of the necessity of absolute respect for fundamental human rights, which will enable the peoples of Central America to realize their human dignity fully in conditions of freedom and social justice,

Bearing in mind that a decade of economic crisis and armed conflicts has taken a substantial toll in terms of loss of life and productive capacity, has had a serious impact on society in the Central American countries, has hindered development and has deepened poverty,

Convinced that, since man is the ultimate reason for development, greater efforts must be made to achieve man's material and spiritual well-being and protect fundamental human rights,

Believing that the gains that have been made with respect to peace and democracy may be seriously jeopardized unless substantial and immediate progress is made in providing a social welfare system and in ensuring economic and social justice,

Expressing their full support for the constitutional Governments that are facing actions by irregular groups which still exist in the region and are adversely affecting the development process,

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Reiterating that peace and development are inseparable and, in pursuance of the decisions adopted in the Montelimar Declaration for dealing with the serious economic and social situation in Central America and thus complementing the progress made so far with respect to peace and democracy,

Seeking to consolidate the objectives set under the Esquipulas procedure and calling upon the international community to support and complement our efforts,

Before our peoples and the international community,

Hereby agree:

I

1. To reaffirm that unqualified respect for and full enjoyment of human rights constitute the foundation of democratic systems, that free elections are an essential component of such systems and the most appropriate means for the expression of the peoples' will, and that it is necessary to strengthen, consolidate and improve the branches of government and judicial, electoral and other institutions which underpin democratic Governments. We call upon the international community to support projects that are being carried out to that end;
2. Recognizing the need to monitor and follow up compliance with the agreements on democratization and national reconciliation under the Esquipulas procedure, to entrust the Executive Commission with the task of considering, at its next meeting, measures and mechanisms for achieving those objectives and to request the Commission to set up an ad hoc group for this purpose which, with the assistance of specialized bodies dealing with the matter, will make recommendations on possible action to be taken;
3. The Presidents of Guatemala, El Salvador and Costa Rica, in the spirit of the Esquipulas II agreements and taking into account the Tela and San Isidro de Coronado agreements concerning the application entered on 28 July 1986 before the International Court of Justice at The Hague by Nicaragua against Honduras, entitled Border and transborder armed actions, call upon the Governments of Nicaragua and Honduras to set up a commission to seek an extrajudicial settlement to this dispute in the hope that the matter may be resolved at the earliest possible date;
4. With the aim of strengthening and broadening the progress made in the regional peace-making process, to instruct the Executive Commission to propose specific mechanisms and steps for the peaceful settlement of disputes to deal with potential conflicts between States in the region;
5. The Presidents of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica welcome with enthusiasm and genuine satisfaction the participation in the eighth summit meeting by the President of Nicaragua, Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, being fully convinced that her presence will stimulate our efforts to continue along the path towards the strengthening of peace, democracy and economic and social development in the region, and expressing their full support of and gratitude for her efforts

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to promote recovery in Nicaragua, especially the important progress made in demobilizing the Nicaraguan resistance and establishing timetables for a substantial reduction in her country's armed forces, all in keeping with the spirit of the Esquipulas agreements;

6. The Presidents of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua congratulate the President of Costa Rica, Mr. Rafael Angel Calderón Fournier, on his participation for the first time in a summit meeting, and express a cordial welcome to him, convinced as they are that his efforts will help to strengthen the summit meeting and to achieve the objectives that have been set and to implement the agreements that have been entered into;
7. The Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua also express their great satisfaction with and support for the policy of the Government of Honduras, under the leadership of Mr. Rafael Leonardo Callejas, not to allow its territory to be used by irregular forces and its firm co-operation in implementing the Joint Plan for the voluntary demobilization, repatriation or relocation in Nicaragua or third countries of the members of the Nicaraguan resistance and their families under the auspices of the International Support and Verification Commission and the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (CIAV/ONUCA);
8. To commend President Marco Vincto Cerezo Arévalo for his initiative concerning the establishment of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development and President Rafael Angel Calderón Fournier for his efforts in promoting a new international ecological order;
9. To recognize the importance of the presence of Panama at this summit meeting and to invite that country once again to participate actively in the processes of dialogue, negotiation and concertation in which the Central American Governments are engaged and to inform Panama of our own and our peoples' interest in having that country become a part of the process of Central American economic integration and of other regional bodies in the near future;
10. To support most vigorously the dialogue between the National Reconciliation Commission and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteco which was begun early in 1990 at Oslo and continued at Madrid;
11. To highlight the latest progress achieved by the Government of Nicaragua and the Nicaraguan resistance in implementing the Managua Declaration of 4 May 1990 and its Protocol of 30 May, given that the voluntary disarming of over 14,900 irregular forces, according to ONUCA and CIAV reports, has virtually brought the demobilization process to an end, thereby making a substantial contribution to peace in Central America;
12. To acknowledge and express appreciation for the support and efforts of ONUCA and CIAV in bringing peace to Central America;
13. The Presidents of Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, concerned that armed conflict persists in El Salvador, reaffirm their full support for the efforts of President Alfredo Cristiani and his Government as they seek to find a peaceful and democratic solution to that conflict. In this connection, they

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welcome the progress made in the dialogue which the Government of El Salvador and FMLN have resumed under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, in the hope that this process will lead to the prompt cessation of the armed confrontation and the definitive re-establishment of peace in this brother country. They also reiterate their appeal to FMLN to halt all violent acts which directly or indirectly affect the civilian population at once and to call upon its members to endorse the Joint Plan for demobilization adopted at Tela, Honduras;

14. To demonstrate their readiness to reduce tensions at the global level and to call upon the major military Powers to allocate financial and technical resources freed by the disarmament process to co-operation programmes for the economic and social development of the Central American isthmus;

15. To pursue, as a matter of urgency, their negotiations on security, verification and the control and limitation of weapons, in accordance with the Esquipulas II agreements, in order to generate resources and redirect them towards the development of our peoples; to this end, technical advice from the secretariats of the Organization of American States and the United Nations and other specialized agencies will be taken into consideration. In order to continue the negotiations, the Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the other delegates comprising the Security Commission are to meet at San José, Costa Rica, on 31 July 1990;

16. To appeal to the international community to support social and development projects for individuals returning to civilian life in the event that reductions in military forces occur;

17. To express our gratitude to the European Economic Community for its special support for the integration process in Central America, reflected in various forums within the framework of the Luxembourg Agreement and to urge those countries to maintain the political dialogue and provide greater economic co-operation for economic and social development in the region;

18. To note with satisfaction the recent decision by the international community to support the extension of the Special Plan of Economic Co-operation for Central America (PEC) and to provide additional resources for the Plan. Likewise, they call upon the international community to support those projects which our countries may present within this framework;

19. To express their deep satisfaction at the positive results achieved at the Rome Meeting - Stockholm II - which will help Nicaragua overcome its serious economic crisis;

20. To appeal to the international community for concrete support for the execution of proposals to be submitted by the Governments convening the first international meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the International Conference on Central American Refugees, to be held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 27 and 28 June 1990;

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21. Under the Regional Co-operation Agreement to Eradicate Illegal Drug Trafficking, signed during the summit meeting at Montelimar, to convene on 20 and 21 July 1990 at Managua a meeting of authorities in this field for the purpose of exchanging information and planning and co-ordinating the execution of the decisions set out in the aforesaid Agreement;

22. To strengthen the Central American groups (GRUCA) in various forums and international conferences with a view to aligning positions and enhancing the region's negotiating capacity. Similarly, they agree to seek to co-ordinate policies and support candidatures within international organizations;

23. To express their satisfaction at the entry into force on 1 May 1990 of the Constituent Treaty of the Central American Parliament and Other Political Forums and its Protocol, as well as the decision by Honduras to become a party thereto; to appeal to the international community to support its establishment.

## II

24. To promote sustained development in Central America through a joint outward-looking strategy, setting up consultation and co-ordination machinery to strengthen the involvement of our economies in international trade;

25. To reiterate the full political commitment of our Governments to tackle, through individual efforts and the efforts of society as a whole, the challenges of development, while reactivating our economies to reduce poverty within an effective framework of economic democracy;

26. To restructure, strengthen and reactivate the integration process as well as Central American regional organizations, correcting or redesigning their legal and institutional frameworks in order to revitalize them and facilitate their readjustment to the new strategies for opening up and modernizing production being pursued by the Central American countries, in the hope of establishing and consolidating an economic community of the Central American isthmus;

27. To promote, by means of concrete actions at the national and regional levels, the transformation of productive structures, following a combination of short-, medium- and long-term policies;

28. To identify individual and regional support mechanisms for the efforts being made by Central American countries to renegotiate their external debt. In this connection, we appeal to the international community to help us alleviate our external debt burden thereby freeing financial resources for regional development;

29. To acknowledge the importance of the international development banks to the economic and social development of Central America, particularly the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE); accordingly, it would be desirable for both institutions to participate actively in the financing of those major projects in the region which promote the achievement of the purposes and objectives set out in this Declaration;

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To invite IDB and BCIE to promote in countries friendly to Central America efforts to secure co-financing to complement the financing of specific projects which are receiving assistance from those institutions. They also agree to appeal to those nations to assist as much as possible with such individual requests or to establish global co-financing funds earmarked for the region;

30. To promote, at the national and regional levels, the acceleration of the reconstruction and transformation of productive and technological structures of Central American countries as a basis for the efficient and dynamic reintegration of the region in world trade, which will then bring about the social well-being of our peoples;

31. To give priority to the establishment of Central American mechanisms for the protection of the region's ecosystems and to support national efforts, with special emphasis on non-renewable resources, soils, forests and waters. They agree to reiterate their support for the work done by the Central American Commission on Environment and Development and to appeal to the international community to provide the necessary co-operation in this area;

32. To co-ordinate policies aimed at effectively integrating the agricultural sector in economic and social development by emphasizing programmes which ensure food security and self-sufficiency in commodities in a setting characterized by stable prices and free trade within the Central American region;

33. To promote policies, programmes and projects in scientific and technological education and research in the region, given that education is generally viewed as essential to individual self-improvement and to the economic, social, political and cultural progress of our peoples;

34. To study the various mechanisms for external co-operation and other initiatives, particularly the initiatives set out in the report of the International Commission for Central American Recovery and Development, known as the Sanford Commission, in order to co-ordinate and make optimum use of such external co-operation in view of regional needs;

35. To overhaul and modernize the public sector, taking austerity and efficiency as basic criteria, so that the State can become more effective, flexible and concerned as much with facilitating and stimulating the activities of economic agents as with the provision of adequate public services;

The production sector, in its broadest sense, is destined to play the central role in the transformation of the economies and in the regional economic integration process;

36. To promote the development of the human resources of the region. Firmly convinced that peace is inseparable from social justice and that full democracy cannot be consolidated in Central America so long as hunger and poverty exist, we undertake to promote development which, today, is the new name of peace. The best guarantee of peaceful and productive coexistence lies in improving health, protecting children and intensifying and expanding the intellectual, moral and

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technical education of the people of Central America. This implies not only improving and expanding the aforesaid services, but also guaranteeing that all Central Americans have access to them;

37. To reaffirm the fundamental character of the "Summit Meeting of the Central American Presidents" as the highest decision-making and co-ordinating mechanism for the agreements and measures subscribed to in this Declaration within the framework of the Procedure for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America (Esquipulas II). In addition to the bodies already established in the aforementioned Procedure, the Economic and Financial Commission, consisting of the respective Ministers of Economic Affairs, is hereby established as the body responsible for the co-ordination and follow-up of the Central American Economic Plan of Action, with a view to the fulfilment of the economic agreements and commitments contained in this presidential declaration;

38. To adopt the Central American Economic Plan of Action (PAECA) for the fulfilment of the commitments undertaken with regard to economic and social development, which forms an integral part of this declaration;

39. To agree to meet again in the last quarter of 1990 in the Republic of Costa Rica;

40. To thank the people and Government of Guatemala, the country in which the Central American Presidents have met for the first time in the framework of Esquipulas, for their hospitality, which created the fraternal atmosphere that has prevailed in this new stage of the regional peace process.

Antigua, Guatemala, 17 June 1990

(Signed) Rafael Angel CALDERON FOURNIER  
President of the Republic of  
Costa Rica

(Signed) Alfredo CRISTIANI BURKARD  
President of the Republic of  
El Salvador

(Signed) Marco Vinicio CEREZO AREVALO  
President of the Republic of  
Guatemala

(Signed) Rafael Leonardo CALLEJAS ROMERO  
President of the Republic of  
Honduras

(Signed) Violeta BARRIOS DE CHAMORRO  
President of the Republic of  
Nicaragua

As invited Observer:

(Signed) Guillermo ENDARA GALIMANY  
President of the Republic of  
Panama

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ANNEX

Central American Economic Plan of Action

I. NEW LEGAL AND OPERATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR INTEGRATION

1. To initiate as soon as possible the analysis and examination of the legal and institutional instruments of integration, with a view to creating a new legal and operative framework for integration. The Ministers responsible for regional integration and development are instructed to begin this process as quickly as possible.

2. To fulfil the commitments undertaken in the financing agreement between the European Economic Community and the Central American countries for the establishment of a regional payments system, and those contained in the annex setting forth the programme for the dismantling of the obstacles to trade among the Central American countries.

3. As regards tariffs, to instruct the Ministers responsible for regional integration and development to submit to their colleagues, no later than three months from this date, a programme and a correlative timetable for the tariff levels to be established.

II. TRADE INFRASTRUCTURE AND INTEGRATION PROGRAMME

4. To promote a programme for the construction and reconstruction of physical infrastructure that will fully support projects relating to Central American transport corridors, communications, customs, ports and the generation and transmission of electrical power, with a view to achieving full inward-oriented and outward-oriented development. The Ministers responsible for the sectors concerned are instructed to prepare, within a period of not more than six months, an inventory of projects leading to the formulation of a programme for the attainment of the desired objectives.

5. To instruct the competent authorities to co-ordinate and promote measures facilitating the transport of people and goods within Central America, by simplifying customs and migration procedures.

6. To reiterate the mandate given to the Ministers responsible for regional economic integration and development concerning compliance with the time-limits relating to the negotiations on the multilateralization of intraregional trade agreements established in the programme for the dismantling of obstacles to trade among the Central American countries.

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### III. REGIONAL CO-ORDINATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF FOREIGN TRADE

7. To devise a selective programme for the efficient co-ordination of a Central American external representation service concerned with foreign trade, the promotion of foreign investment, tourism, and multilateral negotiations of interest to the region. To that end, we instruct our respective Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Ministers of Economic Affairs and those dealing with foreign trade or bodies responsible for tourism, to prepare internally a proposal to be submitted to the Ministers responsible for regional integration and development no later than three months from this date.

8. To instruct the Ministers of Economic Affairs to co-ordinate the actions relating to:

(a) The analysis of the process of entry into and participation in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The current negotiations concerning membership in GATT should take into consideration the conditions negotiated by the Central American countries which are already members of that organization, so as to avoid treatment which distorts their competitive position.

(b) The taking of the necessary steps to make permanent and extend non-reciprocal concessions in specific markets, leading to a broadening of the Caribbean Basin Initiative; joint treatment similar to that accorded to the countries benefiting under the Lomé Convention; and greater access to, and favourable treatment in, markets in the Americas, Europe and Asia.

### IV. ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE SOCIAL SECTORS

9. To instruct the Ministers responsible for regional integration and development to devise, within a period of three months, flexible and dynamic mechanisms that will promote broad consultation and participation among the Governments and the various social sectors concerned with development in order that they may play a leading role in the taking of regional decisions conducive to the attainment of the aims pursued by the present "Economic Summit".

### V. INDUSTRIAL RECONVERSION POLICY

10. To instruct the Ministers responsible for regional integration and development to promote a policy of gradual and selective industrial reconversion with a view to making production activities more efficient, promoting complementarity among the countries, winning new markets and achieving competitive import substitution in the areas deemed appropriate.

### VI. ECONOMIC DEMOCRATIZATION OF STATE ENTERPRISES

11. To support the process of transforming State production enterprises, with a view to promoting economic democratization and broader and more efficient ownership of the means of production.

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#### VII. CO-ORDINATION OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY

12. To instruct the Ministers concerned to prepare, within three months from this date, a co-ordinated agricultural policy, adapted to this Plan and focusing especially on production, support services and technology with a view to achieving on the one hand, a rapid resumption and expansion of traditional exports and an increase in non-traditional exports, and on the other, greater regional food security and an ensured supply of industrial inputs, thus generating production linkages.

#### VIII. REGIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

13. To instruct the Ministers responsible for regional integration and development and the government authorities responsible for science and technology to devise, within six months, a regional science and technology policy and programme designed to ensure the optimum use of the accumulated knowledge available in each of our countries and at the international level, with a view to generating our own resources and formulating regional projects aimed at promoting technological innovation on a selective basis, which will form part of the new joint strategy aimed at third markets. To that end, the Ministers responsible for regional integration and development shall likewise, within the same period of time, take steps to reorganize the regional bodies concerned with scientific and technological education and research.

#### IX. CO-ORDINATION OF ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMMES

14. To promote the co-ordination processes relating to each country's macro-economic adjustment programmes, and to lay the foundations for regional development, because they are necessary to promote satisfactory development of the countries and have a direct beneficial effect on the well-being of the Central American peoples.

#### X. PROGRAMMES OF SOCIAL COMPENSATION FOR ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT

15. To instruct the responsible Ministers to promote, within a period of three months, the programmes specifically designed to minimize the short-term impact of economic adjustment efforts on the most unprotected groups and to incorporate the poorest sectors in the development process by making capital goods, technology and training available to those groups, especially those linked to the informal sector, micro-enterprises and other associative forms of production. The preparation of rural development plans is an integral part of this instruction.

XI. FORUM FOR CONSULTATION ON THE EXTERNAL DEBT AND INTERNATIONAL  
FINANCIAL CO-OPERATION

16. To instruct the Ministers of Finance and Public Credit, and the Presidents of the Central Banks, to establish, within one month, a Central American forum for consultation and co-ordination concerning the external debt, with a view to finding appropriate solutions to the bilateral or multilateral debt.

17. To instruct the competent officials to hold negotiations to facilitate the additional financial co-operation destined to be used for economic reconstruction, the consolidation of democracy, peace and productive transformation, with emphasis on joint regional action programmes.

Antigua, Guatemala, 17 June 1990

(Signed) Rafael Angel CALDERON FOURNIER  
President of the Republic of  
Costa Rica

(Signed) Alfredo CRISTIANI BURKARD  
President of the Republic of  
El Salvador

(Signed) Marco Vinicio CEREZO AREVALO  
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