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

Letter dated 13 August 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 Security Commission Agreement, adopted at San José, Costa Rica, on 31 July 1990 by the Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica (Mr. Hernán Castro), El Salvador (Mr. Ricardo Valdivieso), Guatemala (Mr. Mario Adrián Rosal), Honduras (Mr. Jaime Güell) and Nicaragua (Mr. Ernesto Leal), with Mr. Walter Myers, Ambassador of Panama to Costa Rica, present as an observer, with a view to consolidating the process of achieving peace and democracy and to generating a climate of confidence and security in the region.

We should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

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

(Signed) Alexander A. KRAVETZ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of El Salvador to the
United Nations

(Signed) Rafael CASTELLANOS-CARRILLO
Chargé d'affaires of Guatemala
to the United Nations

(Signed) Roberto FLORES BERMUDEZ
Permanent Representative of
Honduras to the United Nations

(Signed) Roberto MAYORGA CORTES
Permanent Representative of
Nicaragua to the United Nations

ANNEX

Security Commission Agreement

San José, 31 July 1990

In accordance with the mandate of the Central American Presidents, as defined in the Guatemala Procedure and the Antigua Declaration, to consolidate the process of achieving peace and democracy and to generate a climate of confidence and security in the region, the Security Commission hereby lays down the following objectives:

1. To ensure that the armed forces of the countries of the region are of such a nature as to defend sovereignty, territory and internal order rather than of an offensive nature;
2. To establish a reasonable balance between the armed forces of the countries of the region, or a proportional and overall equivalence between their weapons, equipment and human strengths, in such a way that they do not represent any threat to neighbouring countries;
3. To define a new model for security relations between the Central American States, based on co-operation, co-ordination, communication and prevention;
4. To secure commitments with respect to the foreign military presence in the region.

For the purposes of achieving the aforementioned objectives, the Commission identifies the following requirements:

(a) It is necessary to define the factors, such as surface area, location, population, geographical features and their area, as well as border features, which must be taken into account in order to determine, by means of a scale of equivalence, each country's military needs.

(b) Inventories must be drawn up to indicate the numbers of weapons and military personnel in each country.

(c) It is necessary to determine what limits or, where necessary, reductions might be required as a result of the comparisons made in accordance with the paragraphs above.

(d) For the purposes of dealing with internal conflicts or subversive movements in the region, the agreed limits may be exceeded in respect of troops and equipment specifically intended for such situations. Reinforcements of this sort will be subject to such verification and control mechanisms as may be established.

(e) Negotiations which have already been opened on the subject of bases, installations, exercises and foreign military advisers will be reviewed and continued.

(f) Verification and control mechanisms will be established.

(g) The Commission will promote agreements designed to create a climate of trust between the States of the region, to encourage good-neighbourliness and to strengthen friendship, development and co-operation between them.

(h) The offers of co-operation made by the Secretaries-General of the Organization of American States and the United Nations will be accepted.

The Security Commission will hold regular meetings at intervals which shall in no case be greater than 60 days, as well as extraordinary meetings when necessary. Such meetings shall be held alternately in each Central American country, in alphabetical order, with the next regular meeting to be held in El Salvador on 10 and 11 September 1990. In the event that a country is not able or prepared to act as host, the meeting will be moved to the country which next follows it on the alphabetical list.

The scales of equivalence, terms for the drawing up of inventories, verification and control mechanisms and advisory services to be provided by the Secretaries-General of the Organization of American States and the United Nations, whose offers were accepted at this meeting, will be determined at the September meeting in El Salvador. The secretariats of both the latter organizations will be invited to take part in the meeting as observers.

The Commission is grateful for the readiness of Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela to assist in negotiations and believes that it would be useful if the support offered by those fraternal countries were to be channelled through the multilateral bodies which are contributing to the work of this Commission.

The delegations of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama express their gratitude for the hospitality and generosity of the Government of Costa Rica, which were of particular help in ensuring the success of the meeting.
