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Items 25, 68, 80, 124 and 125  
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  
Thirty-ninth year

Letter dated 14 September 1984 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.  
of the Permanent Mission of Panama to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary General

I have the honour to transmit the text of the communiqué issued in Panama City on 7 September 1984 at the conclusion of the seventh joint meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group and of the Central American countries.

I also have the honour to transmit the text of the communication which the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group addressed to the five Central American heads of State with a view to submitting to them the new version of the draft "Contadora Act on Peace and Co-operation in Central America".

\* A/39/150.

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I request you to have both texts distributed as documents of the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly under items 25, 68, 80, 124 and 125 of the provisional agenda, and as documents of the Security Council.

(Signed) Leonardo KAM  
Ambassador  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
Charge d'affaires a.i.  
of the Mission

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ANNEX I

Communication from the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the  
Contadora Group addressed to the five Central American  
heads of State

Panama, 7 September 1984

Sir,

On 9 June 1984 we had the pleasure of transmitting to you, on behalf of our respective Governments, the draft "Contadora Act on Peace and Co-operation in Central America". Today we respectfully submit a new version reflecting the observations and views which the five Central American Governments have put forward concerning the draft Act.

This latest version is the result of an intense process of consultations and a broad exchange of views with all the Central American Governments, which provided the Contadora Group with valuable ideas for revising and enhancing the Act and for facilitating a consensus that would be reflected in legal commitments undertaken by all the parties.

The purpose of this effort was to find viable formulas that would reconcile the various interests and to promote appropriate and firm political understandings that would guarantee regional security and respect for national sovereignty.

The revised version of the Contadora Act once again highlights the principal role of the Central American Governments in the peaceful settlement of the disputes and in overcoming regional problems.

The process of dialogue and negotiation that motivated the Contadora Group has enabled significant progress to be made in the search for peace and co-operation, progress which is reflected today in numerous points of agreement and in the creation of a coherent framework of understanding embodied in this revised version of the Contadora Act. The Central American Governments should now display the political will needed to give legal force to the commitments formulated during this process and should therefore adopt whatever realistic and equitable formulas for conciliation they deem appropriate.

The signing of the Contadora Act on Peace and Co-operation in Central America should provide the basis for security and coexistence governed by mutual respect which is essential for guaranteeing the political and economic stability so desired by the peoples of the area.

The progress made in the effort to prevent any aggravation of the conflicts in the region, the advances in the diplomatic negotiations, the strengthening of the political will to foster dialogue and understanding, and the broad international support for the Contadora process are all clear. However, it should not be forgotten that the arms build-up in the region is still continuing, as are the armed aggression, the border incidents, the destabilization operations and the foreign military presence.

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In the light of the persistent threat to peace, we believe that the Governments of the region must expedite the process of assuming the legal commitments contained in the Contadora Act. Similarly, it is imperative for other Governments with interests and links in the region to respect the right of self-determination of the Central American peoples and demonstrate unequivocal support for political negotiation in place of force, and for understanding and co-operation among all the Governments of the region.

Negotiating implies yielding some ground in order to secure the ultimate objective which is considered essential. Only through honourable, just and serious agreements, based on conciliation and not imposed, will it be possible to achieve regional security, a prerequisite for peace and development in the Central American countries.

The Contadora Group today expresses its satisfaction at the progress in negotiations and at the development of an effective framework for a political and legal understanding. At the same time, it reaffirms its unswerving commitment to continue promoting dialogue, as well as diplomatic efforts to ensure that the principles of international law are fully applied and that the Central American peoples exercise their right of self-determination.

As you know, the United Nations and the Organization of American States have expressed their confidence in and support for the work of the Contadora Group. In various resolutions, they have stated that they wish to be kept informed of the progress of the negotiations which we have been promoting with a view to achieving peace and dialogue in Central America. We will therefore notify those international organizations in due course of the progress made in the important phase that has culminated in the submission of the revised version of the Act, which we are today transmitting to you.

We are confident that in the not too distant future, we the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group and our colleagues in the Central American region, once the improvements considered relevant are made, will be able to sign the Contadora Act on Peace and Co-operation in Central America.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of our highest consideration.

(Signed) Augusto RAMIREZ OCAMPO  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of Colombia

(Signed) Bernardo SEPULVEDA AMOR  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of Mexico

(Signed) Oyden ORTEGA DURAN  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of Panama

(Signed) Isidro MORALES PAUL  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of Venezuela

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ANNEX II

Seventh joint meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of  
the Contadora Group and of the Central American countries'  
Joint Communiqué

The seventh joint meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group and of the Central American countries was held at Panama City on 7 September.

The meeting was convened with a view to promoting the process of diplomatic negotiation aimed at facilitating a solution to the various problems involved in the Central American crisis, by means of peace agreements, détente, security, political development, and economic and social co-operation.

The Ministers of the Contadora Group:

1. Analysed the comments and suggestions on the draft Act on Peace and Co-operation in Central America made in the Technical Group by the Central American Governments.

2. Submitted the revised version of the aforementioned Act and a communication addressed to the heads of State of the Central American countries in which they stressed that the text represented an effort to integrate the various contributions and reconcile those points on which there were still divergences.

3. Pointed out that that had been possible after a long and intense period of consultations and exchanges of views, and that they had tried to narrow the differences in order to facilitate a consensus that could be reflected in legal commitments undertaken by all the parties.

4. Underscored that in the application of the compromise formulas, the fundamental responsibility lay with the Central American countries.

5. They explained that, as proposed by the Central American countries, the Act now envisages only legal commitments. Similarly, the part relating to the implementation, evaluation and follow-up of the commitments contained in the Act has been strengthened so that it is adapted to the nature of the different items.

They also explained that the chapter on political affairs presupposes that there is general recognition that commitments to encouraging democratic institutions are an essential factor for peace in the region.

They further explained that the chapter on security affairs recognizes that such affairs are closely interrelated and that, on the basis of reciprocity, the agreements already reached had been reinforced. In particular, emphasis was placed on reciprocal safeguards which would guarantee the national security of all the States concerned.

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Finally, they explained that the chapter on economic and social affairs had been strengthened, above all with regard to the fundamental role which institutions of Central American integration must play.

6. They stated their conviction that this attempt to revise the Act reflects the views put forward by the five Central American Governments, a fact that is bound to facilitate its adoption. This brings to a close the present phase of technical consultations in the process aimed at ensuring peace and co-operation in the region.

The Foreign Ministers of the Contadora Group and those of the Central American region recognize that the process of dialogue and the negotiations carried out have enabled significant progress to be made which is reflected in numerous points of agreement and in the creation of a coherent framework of understanding. The Central American Governments must now show the political willingness to give legal force to the commitments formulated during this process and to adopt, accordingly, whatever formulas for conciliation are deemed appropriate.

The progress made in preventing an escalation of the conflicts in the region, the advances made in the diplomatic negotiations, the increased political readiness for dialogue and understanding and the widespread international support for the Contadora process are all manifest.

Nonetheless, the Foreign Ministers of the Contadora Group and of the Central American countries expressed concern at the fact that, despite the progress made in the negotiations and the widespread international support for that process, militarization of the area, acts of armed aggression, border incidents, attempts at destabilization and foreign military presence all continue.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Central American countries, for their part, on receiving the latest version of the Act, noted with interest the explanations given them regarding the criteria used to order, systematize and integrate the various contributions of all the participant States.

The Central American Foreign Ministers reiterated their conviction that the negotiating process being carried on as part of the Contadora initiative represents the genuine regional alternative and the appropriate forum for settling the conflicts in Central America.

Accordingly, the nine Foreign Ministers reiterated their commitment to seeking and finding worthwhile, honourable ways of solving equitably the serious problems which persist in the region, and reaffirmed the political willingness of their respective Governments.

Another important issue on this occasion was to review the prospects for the joint meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the European Economic Community, Spain, Portugal, Central America and the Contadora Group, to be held at San José, Costa Rica, on 28 and 29 September. The Foreign Minister of Costa Rica gave a comprehensive and detailed report on the preparations for that meeting, the main object of which is to create a framework which will stimulate and facilitate co-operation, particularly economic and social co-operation, by the European countries with Central America.

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The Foreign Ministers of the Contadora Group welcomed the opportunity offered by the San José meeting at a time of acute and widespread crisis in the region, and pledged their complete readiness to contribute actively to the success of the meeting and its deliberations.

Finally, to deal with questions which had formed part of the agenda for the seventh joint meeting, and also with upcoming major international meetings, the Ministers agreed to maintain an ongoing process of political consultation which would ensure the necessary effective co-ordination, and set 15 October 1984 as the final date for the Central American Governments to give their views on the revised version of the Act.

Panama City, Panama, 7 September 1984

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