



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/40/640

S/17468

16 September 1985

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fortieth session
Items 21, 72, 84, 132 and 133
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 16 September 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 press release dated 13 September 1985 and the annexes thereto issued by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group and of the Central American countries at the conclusion of the meeting which they held in Panama City on 12 and 13 September 1985.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated 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

* A/40/150.

ANNEX

Press release dated 13 September 1985 issued by the Ministers
for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group and of the
Central American countries

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela met in Panama City on 12 and 13 September 1985 with their counterparts from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, as well as the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, for the purpose of exchanging views on the Contadora Act on Peace and Co-operation in Central America.

The meeting was opened by the President of the Republic of Panama, His Excellency Mr. Nicolás Ardito Barletta, who made a fervent appeal for efforts to be redoubled with a view to the achievement, as soon as possible, of a regional agreement conducive to peace and co-operation in the region.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group transmitted to the Central American Ministers the final draft of the Act on Peace and Co-operation in Central America. The document embodies comments made by certain Central American Governments concerning the version of 7 September 1984. An attempt was made to preserve, within a balanced system, the legitimate interests of each State as well as regional security. The document constitutes a coherent and structured body of commitments to permit the foundations of coexistence to be laid on the basis of political trust and good faith.

The Act contains all the elements of a comprehensive legal instrument; it is the outcome of intense and wide-ranging consultations that reflect the positions of the Central American Governments.

There is an acceptance, reached by consensus among the Central American Governments, of the vast majority of the commitments which the Act contains, in the preamble, under the items relating to détente and confidence-building, and, above all, in the chapters dealing with political matters, security matters, economic and social affairs, implementation mechanisms and the follow-up to the agreements.

The Central American Ministers for Foreign Affairs welcomed the final draft, which marks a decisive step forward in the search for a negotiated solution to the Central American crisis. Accordingly, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group and of the Central American countries decided to convene on 7 October 1985 a meeting of plenipotentiaries for a session which is to last not more than 45 days and which cannot be extended, for the purpose of discussing exclusively the following subjects, as well as the timetable for entry into force and the duration of the commitments, on the basis of the provisions of the final draft of the Act:

- (a) Control and reduction of armaments;

(b) Implementation and follow-up mechanisms with regard to security and political matters;

(c) Military manoeuvres.

During that session, there will also be negotiations on operational questions that would make it possible to fulfil the commitments contained in the Act, i.e., the procedure for entry into force, the integration and functioning of implementation and follow-up mechanisms, budget and headquarters.

The framework of reference for the consideration of those issues will be the proposals embodied in the draft legal instrument submitted on this occasion by the Contadora Group. In undertaking this commitment, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs consider that the negotiation of the other issues referred to in the Contadora Act On Peace and Co-operation in Central America has drawn to a close.

Incidents or developments in the region will not be matters to be dealt with by the plenipotentiaries and will not affect the holding of the meetings or the completion of the work.

Once the meeting of plenipotentiaries is over, the Contadora Group will convene a joint conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs with a view to the signing of the Act.

In expressing their satisfaction with the progress made at the meeting, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group stressed the importance of this final phase of the process and reiterated that it is the Central American States that have the exclusive and non-transferable responsibility for securing the agreement. They also noted that the Governments of Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela are playing a role in bringing parties together and seeking a convergence of views in order to promote dialogue and permit negotiation.

The Contadora Group deeply appreciates the demonstrations of solidarity towards the process of negotiation made by the community of Latin American nations, especially those belonging to the Support Group made up of Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay; the Contadora Group will notify their Governments of the results of this meeting and of any new developments.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs expressed their belief in the continuing validity of the proposals made on 21 and 22 July 1985 by the Contadora Group, proposals which led to a number of interrelated measures intended to reactivate diplomatic activity. They also took the view that the forthcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Luxembourg Conference between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group and of the Central American countries and the Ministers of the European Economic Community, and the regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States will afford a good opportunity for joint action to strengthen the peace process in the region.

Lastly, in the light of the tense situation in the region, the Central American Ministers for Foreign Affairs reiterated their acceptance of all the commitments contained in the 1983 Document of Objectives and expressed their resolve to be guided in their conduct by the letter and spirit of that Document.

As this final phase begins, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs renew their appeal to countries with links and interests in the region to contribute decisively to peace and harmony in the area.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group and of the Central American countries convey their gratitude to the President of the Republic of Panama, Dr. Nicolás Ardito Barletta, for the expressions of support for the process of negotiation which he made at the inaugural meeting and for the hospitality and consideration shown by the Government of his country in the interest of the efficient conduct of work.

"Annex I

On the kidnapping of the daughter of President Duarte

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group and of the Central American countries express their solidarity with the President of the Republic of El Salvador, Mr. José Napoleón Duarte, whose daughter, Mrs. Inés Guadalupe Duarte Durán, has been kidnapped.

They join in categorically condemning the action, which constitutes a reprehensible case of terrorism, and in appealing to those responsible to return her safe and sound to her home.

Panama City, 12 September 1985."

"Annex II

On Guatemala

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group and of the Central American countries, meeting in Panama City on 12 and 13 September 1985, having reviewed the political and social situation in Central America, and having heard the statement made by the Guatemalan Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Fernando Andrade Díaz-Durán, join in acknowledging the importance and significance of the process towards democratic constitutionality now taking place in the Republic of Guatemala.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group consider it useful, in making that acknowledgement, to voice their hopes for the successful conclusion of that process, which is making a decisive contribution to the strengthening and consolidation of the democratic system in Latin America.

Panama City, 13 September 1985."