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U.N. General Assembly Urges Contadora To Persevere; Economic Commission Denounces U.S. Trade Embargo Against Nicaragua

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On Nov. 18 the UN General Assembly adopted an appeal urging the Contadora nations to persevere in their effort to achieve peace in Central America. The appeal was adopted without a vote after a two-day debate on the Central American situation. It is contained in a resolution that also acknowledges the commendable efforts of Contadora nations (Mexico, Venezuela, Panama and Colombia), and those of its Support Group (Brazil, Argentina, Peru and Uruguay). All nations were asked to lend "resolute support" to the eight nations. The Assembly reaffirmed in the resolution that a comprehensive, negotiated solution to the Central American conflict requires all nations to respect the principles of international law contained in the UN Charter. Next, the Assembly stated that the people of Latin America wish to achieve peace, development and justice in accordance with their own decisions and without outside interference. The US participated in this resolution. On the evening of Nov. 21 the UN Economic Affairs Commission approved a resolution condemning the US trade embargo against Nicaragua. The resolution was passed by a vote of 86 in favor, one against (Israel), and 46 abstentions. The US representative left the chamber before the final vote took place. This resolution requested all nations to assist in reducing the negative effects of the economic embargo imposed by the US on Nicaragua in May 1985, and to continue concrete economic cooperation with Central American nations. Next, affirmation of Central American nations' rights to choose political, economic and social systems and the content of international relations in the absence of external threats or interference was also included in the resolution. This resolution was sponsored by Mexico, Peru, Nicaragua, Zimbabwe, Algeria, the Congo and Democratic Yemen. It was supported by most Latin American nations, Greece, and Spain.

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