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Text Of Central American Presidents' Joint Statement At Close Of Summit Meeting In San Jose

by Deborah Tyroler

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In the following, highlights of the text of the joint communique issued by the five Central American presidents at the end of a summit meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica, on Jan. 16 are reproduced. The translation from Spanish was published by AP (01/17/88). The Presidents have received the conclusions of the report of the International Verification and Follow-up Commission...with reservations stated by some of them. satisfied, the Presidents are committed to satisfying the unconditional and unilateral obligations they are obliged to comply with, totally and inexcusably. Among them are dialogue, cease-fire talks, a general amnesty, and, above all, democratization, which necessarily includes the lifting of the state of emergency, total freedom of the press, political pluralism and the abolishment of special judicial tribunals. The declared commitments that have not been complied with by the governments, should be complied with immediately, publicly and clearly. Compliance with the agreements of the Esquipulas II document, whose observance by the governments is the object of an essential, specific verification, particularly the end of aid to irregular groups, the end to use of territory for assisting them, and free access to the electoral processes, which should be verified by the National Reconciliation Commission, gives special importance to the election of a Central American Parliament, "as an indispensable element for achieving a stable and durable peace in the region." The Executive Commission made up of the foreign ministers of the Central American states will have the principal function of verification, control and follow-up of all of the commitments contained in the Guatemala procedure and the current declaration. For that, we will seek the cooperation of regional and extra-regional nations, or of organizations of known impartiality and technical ability, which have made known their desire to collaborate in the Central American peace process. Equally, compliance with Esquipulas II implies living up to obligations already made, such as arms limitations and agreements on security and disarmament. We express our acknowledgment to the international community for the political and financial aid that has been pledged to regional projects, aimed at economic and social development in Central America, as an object directly linked to the task of gaining, preserving and consolidating the peace, which cannot be reached without overcoming the primary economic and social causes of the conflict. The Presidents, aware of their historic responsibility to their people, reaffirm their will to fulfill in the expressed form, which they consider inalterable, their promises to comply immediately and without reticence or evasion to everything that is still pending, conscious that it will be their people and the international community who will judge compliance with the obligations assumed in good faith.

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