6-30-1989

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Recommended Citation
U.N. Secretary General On Central American Situation

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Category/Department: General
Published: Friday, June 30, 1989

In a report on the Central American situation released June 28, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said that the postponement of the regional summit meeting is not "merely a problem of fixing dates." Perez noted that the "political climate" in the region is deteriorating, and violence is once again on the upswing. Nonetheless, said the secretary general, the regional peace process can be put back on track if three initiatives already subscribed to by Central American leaders are implemented: verification of regional accord security provisions; democratization and national reconciliation in Nicaragua; and, demobilization and voluntary relocation and repatriation of Nicaraguan Resistance forces. Perez reiterated UN willingness to organize and deploy verification teams in Central America. He pointed out that this effort is currently stalemated by a reservation formulated "by one of the [Central American accord] signatories." On the Nicaraguan elections, Perez stated that the UN continues contacts with Managua in organizing observer teams. He added that UN officials have established contacts with the Organization of American States (OAS) to carry out a joint effort in observing the Nicaraguan electoral process. Regarding the contra demobilization initiative, Perez noted that the five Central American foreign ministers and the five heads of state have not yet approved a plan. (Basic data from Notimex, 06/28/89)

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