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Brief Chronology Of United Nations In Central America: August 1987 - August 1989

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7 August 1987: The Presidents of the five Central American countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) signed the Guatemala Procedure, also known as Esquipulas II. Among other things, the agreement expressed the will of the five Governments to engage in a national dialogue and to put into effect a general amnesty. They also envisaged the creation of a National Reconciliation Commission in each of the five countries. The presidents requested the Secretaries General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States to establish the International Verification and Follow-up Commission (CIVS). The CIVS would provide security arrangements toward preventing support for irregular forces or insurrectional movements. In addition to the Secretaries General, the Foreign Ministers of the Contadora Group, the Support Group and the five accord signatory nations were members of CIVS.

16 January 1988: After receiving the final report of the CIVS, the five Central American presidents signed the Alajuela Declaration which ratified Esquipulas II in Alajuela, Costa Rica.

14 February 1989: In view of the lack of progress in implementing the Esquipulas Agreement, the five Central American Presidents met in El Salvador for their third summit. The ensuing Costa del Sol Declaration emphatically renewed the will of signatory governments to comply with Esquipulas II. In addition, the Government of Nicaragua announced its decision to call general and free elections on 25 February 1990, and to that end to reform the electoral laws and the laws governing the media. Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega also announced his government’s decision to invite the UN Secretary General to send observers for verification of the electoral process throughout Nicaragua. The Presidents also agreed to draw up within 90 days a joint plan for the demobilization, repatriation and resettlement of the Nicaraguan Resistance in Nicaragua or third countries. They also asked the Secretary General to proceed with arrangements to establish a mission for the verification of Esquipulas II security provisions (ONUCA).

31 March 1989: In a note addressed to the Secretary General, the five Ministers of Foreign Affairs requested the establishment of a mechanism (ONUCA) for the verification of Esquipulas II security provisions. The request contained a reservation by Honduras related to a pending case between Honduras and Nicaragua in the International Court of Justice. Because of the reservation, the Secretary General was unable to act on the request. 3 July 1989: After reviewing reports produced by the preliminary missions sent to Nicaragua in April and May 1989 in connection with the Government request for verification of the electoral process, the Secretary General agreed to monitor the process, taking into consideration the following: (a) the request had the support of the five Central American Presidents; (b) General Assembly resolution 43/24 provided the Secretary General with the necessary elements to proceed; (c) verification was to take place throughout the entire electoral process and in all voting districts; and, (d) the Nicaraguan elections were perceived to be an element of the Central American peace process as a whole. Thus, the Secretary General and the Government of Nicaragua signed the agreement implementing the verification mission, known as ONUVEN. 27 July 1989: The Security
Council adopted resolution 637/1989 expressing support for the Guatemala Agreement and the Joint Declarations, calling upon the five Presidents to continue their efforts to achieve a firm and lasting peace in the region and lending the Council's full support to the Secretary General to continue his mission of good offices in support of the Central American Governments. 7 August 1989 In a summit meeting that took place in Tela (Honduras), the Central American Presidents adopted three key documents: 1. The Tela Declaration, which endorses and ratifies the Esquipulas II Plan and the Alajuela and the Costa del Sol Declarations. 2. The Joint Plan for the voluntary demobilization, repatriation or relocation in Nicaragua or third countries of the members of the Nicaraguan resistance and their families, as well as assistance for the demobilization of all those involved in armed actions in the countries of the region when they voluntarily seek it. The Plan provides for the creation, by the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) Secretaries General, of an International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV). 3. The Agreement between Honduras and Nicaragua, a bilateral instrument whereby the Government of Nicaragua commits itself to postpone and eventually to withdraw the suit filed against Honduras before the International Court of Justice once conditions regarding implementation of the Joint Plan and prevention of the use of the Honduran territory by irregular forces have been met. The third agreement cleared the way for the Secretary General to send a reconnaissance mission to the region in order to assist in preparing a formal proposal to the Security Council for the establishment of ONUCA.

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