

CENTRAL AMERICA -  
THE CONTADORA PEACE PROCESS:  
NICARAGUA AND THE UNITED STATES -

According to the BBC World Service, 22 September 1984, the Nicaraguan leader Mr Daniel Ortega is ready to sign the "peace plan" (the "Contadora Act") prepared by the Contadora Group - Columbia, Venezuela, Mexico and Panama. He indicated that his country would be prepared to sign this without modification and called upon the United States to also sign the draft peace treaty. Since the United States claimed an historical right to be involved in the affairs of central America, he observed that it should also sign the treaty and comply with its provisions. Some of the documents relevant to the Contadora peace process include:-

1. The Cancun Declaration on Peace in Central America, 17 July 1983:  
UN Document A/38/303 and S/15877; 23 ILM 841 (1984);
2. Document of Objectives of The Contadora Group and the Central American States, 9 September 1983: UN Document S/16041; 23 ILM 846 (1984);
3. Communique of the Contadora Group and Central American Foreign Ministers, 8 January 1986: UN Document A/39/71 and S/16262;  
23 ILM 857 (1984).
4. Contadora Act for Peace and Co-operation in Central America

(Reference should also be made to selected documents published in 23 ILM 852-864 (1984) and to the Costa Rica - Nicaragua Joint Resolution (1984) Australian I.L. News 384; 23 ILM 863 (1984)).

The Contadora Act for Peace and Co-operation in Central America is a draft treaty prepared by the Contadora group. The signatories to the treaty would be Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. The Contadora group would be parties to an "Additional Protocol" which would be annexed to the Contadora Act. We publish below a non official translation of the revised version of the Contadora Act, made available to us in October 1984 by His Excellency, J. Cabrera Munoz Ledo, Ambassador of Mexico to Australia.

In the meantime the US has signalled objections to some aspects of the Contadora Act, and in November, some of the proposed parties to the Act indicated the need for further revisions.

CONTADORA ACT FOR PEACE AND COOPERATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA

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NON OFFICIAL TRANSLATION  
(REVISED VERSION)

CONTADORA ACT FOR PEACE AND COOPERATION  
IN CENTRAL AMERICA

## PREAMBLE

The Governments of the Republics of Costa Rica, El Salvador,  
Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua:

PART II  
COMMITMENTS REGARDING EXECUTION AND  
FOLLOW-UP

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1. Ad hoc Committee for the Evaluation and Follow-up of the Commitments regarding Political Issues and Refugees..... 34
2. Commission for the Verification and Control of Security Issues ..... 35
3. Ad hoc Committee for the Evaluation and Follow-up Procedure of Commitments on Economic and Social matters..... 41

## 1. AWARE of the urgent need to strengthen peace and

cooperation between the countries of the region through the observance of principles and means that facilitate a better understanding between the Central American Governments;

2. CONCERNED by the prevailing situation in Central America, which is characterized by a serious deterioration of political confidence, by border incidents, an arms race, arms transfers, the presence of foreign advisors and other forms of foreign military presence, as well as by the use of the territory of some States by irregular forces to carry out destabilizing actions against other States in the region;

## PART III

## FINAL PROVISIONS

- ANNEX ..... 45  
ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONTAJORA ACT FOR PEACE AND COOPERATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA..... 52

## CONVINCED

3. That the tensions and current conflicts could worsen and lead to a generalized war;
4. That the objective of re-establishing peace and confidence in the area can only be attained through unrestricted respect for the principles of international law, with particular reference to the right of peoples to choose freely and without outside interference the forms of political, economic and social organization that is best suited to their own interests, through institutions representing the freely-expressed will of the people;

5. Of the importance of creating, fostering and strengthening democratic systems in all the countries of the region;
  6. Of the need to establish political conditions aimed at guaranteeing the security, integrity and sovereignty of the States of the region;
  7. That the achievement of genuine regional stability depends on the adoption of agreements on security and disarmament questions;
  8. That in order to adopt measures aimed at halting the arms race in all its forms, the national security interests of the States of the region must be taken into account;
  9. That military superiority as a political objective of the States of the region, the presence of foreign advisors and other foreign elements, and the transfer of arms endanger regional security and constitute destabilizing factors in the area;
  10. That agreements on regional security must be subject to an effective system for verification and control;
  11. That the destabilization of Governments in the area, which generally takes the form of promoting or supporting the activities of irregular groups or forces, acts of terrorism, subversion or sabotage, and the use of the territory of one State for launching actions affecting the security of another State, is contrary to the basic norms of international law and of peaceful coexistence between States;
  12. That it is highly advisable to establish maximum limits for military development, in conformity with the stability and security needs in the region;
  13. That the creation of mechanisms that allow the application of a policy of détente must be based on the existence of political confidence between States that tends to produce an effective reduction of the political and military tensions between them;
  14. RECALLING the provisions of the United Nations as regards the definition of aggression, particularly in Resolution 3314 (XXIX) of the U.N. General Assembly, and those contained in the relevant Resolutions of the Organization of American States;
  15. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Declaration of Strengthening of International Security, adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in its Resolution 2734 (XXV), as well as the relevant legal instruments of the Inter-American System;
  16. CONFIRMING the need to promote actions of national reconciliation in cases where deep divisions have occurred within a society, so as to permit the participation of the people, in accordance with the law, in democratic political processes;
- CONSIDERING:
17. That on the basis of the United Nations Charter of 1945 and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, various international agencies and conferences have drawn up and adopted declarations, pacts, protocols, agreements and statutes aimed at providing effective protection to human rights in general, or to some of them specifically;

**CONVINCED:**

18. That not all the Central American States have accepted all existing international instruments in matters of human rights, and that it would be desirable for them to do so in order to have a more integrated system for ensuring due respect for and guaranteeing human, political, civil, economic, social, religious and cultural rights;
19. That, in many cases, the defects of outdated or inadequate internal legislation hinder the effective enforcement of human rights as defined in declarations and other international instruments;
20. That it must be the concern of every State to modernize and adapt its legislation in such a way as to guarantee the effective enjoyment of human rights;
21. That one of the most effective means of achieving the enforcement of human rights as defined by international instruments, political constitutions and the laws of different States lies in giving the judicial branch of government sufficient authority and autonomy to put a stop to violations of those rights;
22. That, to this end, the absolute independence of the judiciary must be guaranteed;
23. That this guarantee will only be made possible if judiciary officials are secure in their posts, and the judiciary has an ensured budget that makes its independence from the other branches of government absolute and unquestionable;

24. Of the need to establish just economic and social structures that will consolidate a genuine democratic system and allow the peoples concerned full access to employment, education, health and cultural rights;

25. Of the high degree of interdependence among Central American Countries, and the potential afforded to small countries by the process of economic integrations;

26. That the magnitude of the economic and social crisis affecting the region has made it evident that changes must be made in its economic and social structures with a view to reducing the dependence and encouraging the regional self-sufficiency of Central American countries, thereby reaffirming their own identity;

27. That the process of Central American economic integration must constitute an effective instrument for economic and social development founded on justice, solidarity and mutual benefit;

28. That the process of Central American economic integration must be reactivated, improved and restructured through the active and institutional participation of all the States in the region;

29. That Central American institutions and authorities must play the major role in the reform of present economic and social structures and in strengthening the process of regional integration;

35. RECALLING the support accorded to the Contadora Group by Resolutions 530 of the Security Council and 38/10 of the United Nations General Assembly, and by Resolution AG/RES 675 (XIII-0/83) of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States; and
36. FULLY DISPOSED to carry out the provisions contained in the Document of Objectives and the Norms governing the fulfillment of the commitments assumed in that document, adopted by their Foreign Affairs Ministers on September 9, 1983, and on January 8, 1984, respectively, under the auspices of the Governments of Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela, which constitute the Contadora Group;
- Have agreed to the following:
- CONTADORA ACT FOR PEACE AND COOPERATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA
- PART I  
COMMITMENTS  
CHAPTER I  
GENERAL COMMITMENTS
31. Of the extensive need for investment essential to the development and economic recovery of Central American countries and the efforts that these countries have jointly made to obtain financing for specific priority projects, and considering also the need to expand and strengthen international, regional and subregional financial institutions;
32. That the regional crisis has provoked mass movements of refugees and that this situation requires urgent attention;
33. DISTURBED by the constant worsening of social conditions in such areas as employment, education, health and housing in Central American countries;
34. CONFIRMING, without prejudice to their right to recur to other competent international forums, their willingness to solve their controversies within the framework of the negotiations process sponsored by the Contadora Group;
- THE PARTIES agree, in accordance with the obligations they have assumed in accordance with international law, to:
1. Abide by the following principles:
    - a) Renunciation of any threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of States.

- b) The peaceful settlement of controversies.
- c) Non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.
- d) Cooperation between the States in solving international Problems.
- e) Equal rights, the free self-determination of peoples and the fostering of respect for human rights.
- f) Sovereign equality and respect for the inherent rights of sovereignty.
- g) Abstention from the use of discriminatory practices in economic relations between States, according full respect to their political, economic and social organization systems.
- h) The fulfillment in good faith of obligations entered into in accordance with international law.
- b) They shall resolve their controversies by peaceful means in observance of the fundamental principles of international law, contained in the United Nations Charter and in the Charter of the Organization of American States.
- c) They shall respect existing international borders between States.
- d) They shall refrain from any military occupation of the territory of the other States in the region.
- e) They shall refrain from taking any coercive military, political, economic or other type of action aimed at subordinating to their own interests the exercise by other States of their inherent sovereign rights.
- f) They shall take the necessary steps to guarantee the inviolability of their borders against irregular groups or forces attempting to carry out destabilizing actions against the Governments of neighboring States from their own territory.
- g) They shall not allow their territory to be used for actions against the sovereign rights of other States, and they shall take care to ensure that the conditions prevailing in their territory do not constitute a threat to international peace and security.
2. In fulfillment of these principles:
- a) They shall refrain from taking any action incompatible with the Proposals and principles of the United Nations Charter and the Charter of the Organization of American States, against the territorial integrity, political independence or unity of any of the States, and in particular from any similar action that constitutes a threat or the use of force.

5. To that end, their respective government authorities shall:

- h) They shall respect the principle that no State or groups of States has the right to intervene directly or indirectly, whether militarily or by any other means of interference, in the domestic or foreign affairs of another State.
    - 1) They shall respect the right of peoples to self-determination, without intervention or external coercion, avoiding threats or the direct or covert use of force to undermine the national unity and the territorial integrity of any other State.
  - 5. To that end, their respective government authorities shall:
    - a) Avoid any verbal or written declaration that could aggravate the current conflicts in the area.
    - b) Urge the mass media to contribute to understanding and cooperation among the peoples of the region.
    - c) Promote improved contact and acquaintance among their peoples through cooperative efforts in all fields of education, science, technology and culture.
    - d) Jointly study future activities and mechanisms that may contribute to the achievement and strengthening of a climate of stable and lasting peace.
  - 6. Jointly seek a regional solution that will eliminate the causes of tension in Central America by guaranteeing the inalienable rights of people in the face of foreign pressures and interests.
- CHAPTER II**
- COMMITMENTS ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS**
- Section I. COMMITMENTS REGARDING REGIONAL DETENTE AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING.**
- THE PARTIES AGREE TO:
3. Promote mutual confidence by every means within their reach and to avoid any action that is liable to prove harmful to peace and security in the Central American Area.
  4. Refrain from issuing or promoting propaganda in favor of violence or war, as well as hostile propaganda against any Central American government, and to observe and disseminate the principles of peaceful coexistence and friendly cooperation.
- Section 2. COMMITMENTS REGARDING NATIONAL RECONCILIATIONS**
- Each of the PARTIES recognizes with regard to the other Central American States its commitment, assumed with its own people, to guarantee the preservation of domestic peace as a contribution to peace in the region, and to that end resolves:

7. To take measures aimed at establishing and, where pertinent, perfecting representative and pluralistic democratic systems that guarantee the effective politically-organized participation of the people in decision-making and that ensure the free access of different currents of opinion to honest and periodical electoral processes, based on the full observance of citizens' rights.
  8. In cases where there are deep divisions within a society, to promote immediate national reconciliation actions allowing the fully-guaranteed participation of the people in genuine, democratic political processes, based on justice, freedom and democracy and, to that end, to establish mechanisms permitting dialogue with opposition groups in accordance with the law.
  9. To issue, and, where pertinent, to endorse, expand and improve legal norms for offering a true amnesty that will allow their citizens to be fully reincorporated into political, economic and social life. Similarly, to guarantee the inviolability of the lives, freedom and personal security of those granted such amnesty.
  10. Guarantee full respect for human rights, and, to that end, fulfill the obligations contained in international legal instruments and constitutional provisions on this subject.
  11. Initiate the respective constitutional proceedings that will enable them to become Parties to the following international instruments:
    - a) International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966.
    - b) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966.
    - c) Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966.
    - d) International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965.
    - e) Convention on the Statute of Refugees, 1951.
    - f) Optional Protocol to the Statute of Refugees, 1967.
    - g) Convention on the Political Rights of Women, 1952.
    - h) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1979.
    - i) Protocol of 1953 for Modification of the Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, 1925.
    - j) Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of
- Section 3. COMMITMENTS REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS.**
- THE PARTIES agree, in accordance with their respective internal laws and with the obligations they have assumed in accordance with international law, to:

**14. SECTION 4. COMMITMENTS REGARDING ELECTORAL PROCESSES AND PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION.**

**Slave-Y, Slave-Trading and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, 1956.**

**k) International Covenant on the Civil and**

**Political Rights of Women, 1953.**

**l) American Convention on Human Rights, 1969,**

noting articles 45 and 62.

**12. Prepare and submit to their appropriate domestic organs the necessary bills for the purpose of accelerating the modernization and updating of their legislation, in order to make it more suited to promoting and guaranteeing due respect for human rights.**

**13. Prepare and submit, to their appropriate domestic organs bills aimed at:**

- a) Guaranteeing the principal officials of the judicial branch the stability that will enable them to act free from political pressures, and allow them in turn to guarantee the stability of officials of lower rank.
  - b) Guaranteeing the budgetary stability of the judicial branch itself, so that its independence from the other branches of government will be absolute and unquestionable.
- Each of the PARTIES acknowledges with regard to the other Central American States the commitment assumed with its own people to guarantee the preservation of domestic peace as a contribution to peace in the region, and to that end resolves:
- 14. To adopt measures conducive to guaranteeing the equal participation of political parties in electoral processes, ensuring their access to the mass media and their freedom of assembly and expression.
  - 15. They further agree to:
    - a) Put the following measures into effect:
      - 1) To promulgate or revise electoral legislation governing the holding of elections so as to guarantee the effective participation of the people as a whole.
      - 2) To establish independent electoral boards to compile reliable voters rolls and to ensure the impartiality and democratic nature of the process.
      - 3) To establish or, where pertinent, to update norms guaranteeing the existence and participation of political parties that reflect the different currents of opinion.

- 4) To draw up a calendar of elections and take steps to assure the equal participation of all political parties.
- b) Propose to their respective legislative organs that they

1) Hold regular meetings in alternative locations in order to exchange experience, contribute to détente and promote rapprochement between the countries in the area.

- 2) Take measures aimed at maintaining relations with the Latin American Parliament and its respective Working Committees.
- 3) Exchange information and experience on matters of their competence and compile, for the purpose of comparative study, a record of current electoral legislation and related measures in each country.

- 4) Take part, as observers, in the different stages of electoral processes occurring in the region.

An express invitation from the Central American country holding elections shall be essential for this purpose.

- 5) Hold periodic meetings of a technical nature, in a venue and with an agenda determined, by consensus, at each preceding meeting. The terms and conditions of the first meeting shall be determined via consultations among the Central American foreign ministries.

**CHAPTER III**  
**COMMITMENTS ON SECURITY AFFAIRS**

In accordance with the obligations contracted in accordance with international law, the PARTIES assume the following:

- Section 1. COMMITMENTS REGARDING MILITARY MANEUVERS
16. To abide by the following provisions as regards the holding of military maneuvers
- a) In the case of national or joint military maneuvers held in zones within thirty (30) kilometers of the borderline, the corresponding previous notification must be made to neighboring countries and to the Commission for Verification and Control referred to in Part II of this Act, with at least thirty (30) days notice.
- b) Such notification must contain the following elements:
- 1) Title  
2) Purpose  
3) Participating forces  
4) Geographical location  
5) Dates and schedule  
6) Equipment and weapons to be used
- An invitation should be extended to observers from the border countries.

18.

- To prohibit the holding of international military maneuvers within their respective territories. All maneuvers of this kind already in process must be suspended within a period of no more than thirty days after the signing of this Act.

#### Section 2. COMMITMENTS ON ARMAMENT ISSUES.

- To halt the arms race in all its forms, and to initiate immediate negotiations on the control and reduction of the current inventory of weapons, and on the number of military personnel under arms.
- To refrain from introducing new arms' systems which qualitatively and quantitatively modify present inventories of war materiel.
- To refrain from the introduction, possession or use of chemical, biological, radiological and other weapons that can be considered excessively harmful or that have indiscriminate effects.
- To submit to the Commission for Verification and Control their respective current inventories of arms, installations and military personnel under arms within a period of no more than thirty (30) days from the date of the signing of this Act. The inventories shall be prepared in accordance with the definitions and basic criteria agreed upon in the Annex and in paragraph twenty-two of this section. Once the Commission has received the inventories, it shall carry out,

19.

within a period of no more than thirty days, studies of a technical nature serving to determine maximum limits for the military development of the States in the region, taking into account their national security interests, and with a view to halting the arms race.

On the basis of the above, the PARTIES agree on the following stages of execution:

**First stage:** Once their respective inventories have been submitted, the PARTIES must suspend all acquisition of military equipment. The moratorium shall be in force until limits are agreed upon in the following stage.

**Second stage:** The PARTIES shall establish limits within a period of not more than thirty days, on the following types of arms: fighter planes, bombers and helicopters, tanks and armored vehicles; artillery weapons; rockets and short, medium and long-range guided missiles and launching equipment, and military ships or vessels, or those liable to be used for military purposes.

**Third stage:** The PARTIES shall establish, once the previous stage has been concluded, and within a period of not more than thirty days, limits on military personnel and on the installations liable to be used as bases for war action.

**Fourth stage:** The PARTIES shall be able to initiate negotiations on matters they consider essential to their interests.

20.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the PARTIES shall be able, by mutual consent, to alter the time limits set for the negotiation and establishment of limits.

The following basic criteria shall determine the levels of military development of the Central American States, in accordance with stability and security needs in the region:

a) No military institution shall have as its political aim the establishment of hegemony over other individual forces.

b) In defining national security, consideration must be given to economic and social development at a given moment and to future development aims.

c) To determine the latter, studies must be carried out that cover the following overall aspects:

- 1) An awareness of the internal and external security needs of the State.
  - 2) Size of country
  - 3) Population
  - 4) Distribution of economic resources, infrastructure and population within the national territory.
  - 5) Extension and characteristics of land borders and shorelines.
  - 6) Military spending in relation to the gross domestic product (GDP).
  - 7) Military budget in relation to public expenditure and in comparison with other social indicators.
  - 8) Characteristics, geographical situation and geopolitical position.
  - 9) Maximum level of military technology suitable for the region.
23. To initiate constitutional procedures enabling them, if they have not already done so, to sign and ratify or adhere to international treaties and other accords on disarmament matters.

22. 28. With regard to advisors carrying out technical duties related to the installation and maintenance of military equipment, a control register shall be drawn up in accordance with the terms established in the respective contracts or agreements. On the basis of this register, the Commission on Verification and Control shall take steps to establish reasonable limits on the numbers of this type of advisors.
- Section 3. COMMITMENTS REGARDING FOREIGN MILITARY BASES**
24. To refrain from authorizing the establishment of foreign military bases or schools in their respective territories.
25. To eliminate existing foreign military bases or schools in their respective territories within a period of 6 months from the signing of this Act.

**Section 4. COMMITMENTS REGARDING FOREIGN MILITARY ADVISORS**

26. To submit to the Commission on Verification and Control a report on foreign military advisors and other foreign elements engaged in military and security activities in their territories, within a period of no more than thirty days from the signing of this Act. The definitions contained in the Annex shall be taken into account in the preparation of this census.
27. To establish a schedule for the gradual withdrawal of foreign military advisors engaged in operational and training activities. The studies and recommendations of the Commission on Verification and Control shall be taken into account for this purpose.
28. To eliminate existing foreign military bases or schools in their respective territories within a period of 6 months from the signing of this Act.
29. To eliminate the intraregional and extraregional flow of arms destined to individuals, irregular forces, organizations, or armed bands attempting to destabilize the Governments of the States parties to this Act.
30. To establish, for that purpose, internal control mechanisms at airports, landing strips, ports, terminals and frontier posts, on land, air, sea and river routes, and at any other point or area liable to be used for arms' transfers.
31. To submit denunciations of violations in this matter, based on presumption of proven facts, to the Commission on Verification and Control, together with sufficient information to enable it to carry out the necessary investigations and present the conclusions and recommendations that it deems suitable. Whenever pertinent, and for purposes of verification, the following criteria shall be taken into account:

- a. Origin of the arm transfer
  - b. Personnel involved
  - c. Types of weapons, ammunition, equipment and other kinds of military supplies.
  - d. Extraregional means of transport
  - e. Extraregional transport routes
  - f. Bases for storage of weapons, ammunition, equipment and other kinds of military supplies.
  - g. Intraregional traffic routes and areas
  - h. Means of international transport
    - i. Receiving unit
33. To exercise close vigilance along their respective borders with the object of preventing their territory from being used to carry out any armed action against a neighboring State.
34. To disarm and remove from border zones any irregular group or force that has been identified as responsible for actions against a neighboring State.
35. To dismantle and forbid the use of installations, means and facilities for operative and logistical support within their territory when these have been used for launching actions against neighboring governments.
- Section 6. COMMITMENTS REGARDING THE PROHIBITION OF SUPPORT TO IRREGULAR FORCES.
32. To refrain from giving any political, military, financial or other type of support to individuals, groups, irregular forces or armed bands whose aim is the overthrow or destabilization of other governments, and to prevent, by all the means at their disposal, the use of their territory for the purpose of attacking or organizing attacks, acts of sabotage, kidnappings, highjackings or other unlawful actions in the territory of another State.
36. To refrain from lending political, military, financial or any other kind of support to subversive, terrorist or sabotage activities aimed at destabilizing the governments of the region.
37. To refrain from organizing, calling for or participating in acts of terrorism, subversion or sabotage in another State, or consenting to activities organized within their territory and aimed at the commission of such acts.
- Section 7. COMMITMENTS REGARDING TERRORISM, SUBVERSION OR SABOTAGE.

- 38. To abide by the following international treaties and agreements:
    - a. The Hague Convention for the Suppression of the Illicit Seizure of Aircraft.
    - b. Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of Acts of Terrorism consisting of Crimes against Persons and Related Extortion when these have International Consequences.
    - c. Convention for the Suppression of Illicit Acts against Civil Aviation.
    - d. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents.
    - e. International Convention against the Taking of Hostages.
  - 39. To initiate constitutional procedures that will enable them, if they have not already done so, to sign and ratify or accede to the international treaties and agreements referred to in the preceding paragraph.
  - 40. To respect the commitments set out in this section, without prejudice to their accession to the treaties and other international agreements on matters of diplomatic and territorial asylum.
  - 41. To prevent the participation of individuals belonging to foreign terrorist groups or organizations in unlawful acts within their respective territories. For that purpose, they shall reinforce cooperation between their immigration and police departments, as well as between the corresponding civil authorities.
  - 42. To establish a regional communications system that will guarantee immediate and timely links between relevant government and military authorities, for the purpose of preventing incidents.
  - 43. To establish Joint Security Committees for the purpose of preventing and resolving conflicts between neighboring States.
- Section 8. COMMITMENTS REGARDING DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS
- 44. To establish a regional communications system that will guarantee immediate and timely links between relevant government and military authorities, for the purpose of preventing incidents.
- CHAPTER IV  
COMMITMENTS ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
- Section 1. COMMITMENTS ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MATTERS
- 45. For the purpose of strengthening the process of the economic integration of Central America and the institutions that constitute and support this process, the PARTIES agree:

- 44. To reactivate, improve and restructure the process of Central American economic integration by coordinating it with the different forms of political, economic and social organization of the countries of the area.
- 45. To endorse Resolution 1/84 of the Thirtieth Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Central American Economic Integration, held July 27, 1984, which calls for the re-establishment of the institutional nature of the process of Central American economic integration.
- 46. To support and promote the adoption of agreements tending to strengthen trade between Central American countries within the legal framework and spirit of integration.
- 47. Not to adopt or support coercive or discriminatory measures detrimental to the economy of any of the Central American countries.
- 48. To adopt measures aimed at strengthening the area's financing agencies, such as the Central American Economic Integration Bank, and to support their efforts to obtain resources and to diversify their operations, while maintaining the power of decision and safeguarding the interests of all the Central American countries.
- 49. To strengthen multilateral mechanisms for payments to the Central American Common Market Fund and reactivate those made through the Central American Chamber of Compensation. Available international financial assistance may be drawn on for support in these matters.
- 50. To undertake sectoral cooperation projects in the area, such as the electricity production and distribution system, the regional food supply security system, the Priority Health Needs Plan for Central America and Panama and others that contribute to Central American economic integration.
- 51. To examine jointly the problem of the Central American foreign debt, based on an evaluation that takes into account internal conditions in each country, its credit-worthiness, the critical economic situation of the area and the flow of additional resources necessary for dealing with its economic and social development.
- 52. To support the process of preparation and subsequent implementation of a new Central American tariffs and customs system.
- 53. To adopt joint measures for the protection and promotion of their exports by integrating as far as possible the processes of transformation, commercialization and transport of their products.

- 54. To adopt the necessary measures for giving legal status to the Central American Monetary Council.

- 55. To give support at the highest level to the efforts made by CADESCA, in conjunction with subregional agencies, to obtain the necessary funds from the international community for reactivating the economy of Central America.

- 56. To apply international labor standards and, with the cooperation of the ILO, to adapt their internal legislation to those norms, particularly those which contribute to the reconstruction of Central American societies and economies.

Similarly, and with the assistance of the aforementioned agency, to implement programs for creating jobs, for providing basic and specialized job training, and for the application of appropriate technology designed to make a greater use of the manpower and the natural resources of each country.

- 57. To request the support of the Pan American Health Organization, UNICEF and other development agencies, and of the international financial community, in financing the Priority Health Needs Plan for Central America and Panama approved by the Ministers of Health of the Central American Isthmus in San José, on March 16, 1984.

Section 2. COMMITMENTS REGARDING REFUGEES

THE PARTIES agree to make the necessary efforts toward the following ends:

- 58. To carry out the constitutional procedures, if this has not already been done, for their accession to the 1951 Convention of the Statute of Refugees and to the 1967 Protocol on the Statute of Refugees.
- 59. To adopt the terminology established in the above-mentioned Convention and Protocol, with the aim of differentiating between refugees and other categories of migrants.
- 60. To establish the necessary internal mechanisms for applying the provisions of the Convention and Protocol mentioned in Paragraph 58, once they have acceded to them.

- 61. That consultation mechanisms be established between Central American countries that include representatives from the Government department responsible for dealing with the problems of refugees in each State.

- 33.
- 62. To support the work being carried out by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in Central America, and to establish direct coordination mechanisms to facilitate the fulfillment of its mandate.
  - 63. That every repatriation of refugees be of a voluntary nature, manifested individually, and carried out with the collaboration of UNHCR.
  - 64. That tripartite committees, made up of representatives from the State of origin, the receiving State and UNHCR, be established for the purpose of facilitating the repatriation of refugees.
  - 65. To strengthen protection and assistance programs for refugees, with particular emphasis on health, education, employment and security aspects.
  - 66. That programs and projects be put into effect to help refugees become self-sufficient.
  - 67. To provide training for the officials responsible for the protection and assistance of refugees in each State, with the collaboration of UNHCR or other international agencies.
  - 68. To request immediate assistance from the international community for Central American refugees, both directly through bilateral or multilateral agreements and through UNHCR and other organizations and agencies.
  - 69. To find, with UNHCR's collaboration, other countries willing to receive Central American refugees. In no case shall a refugee be sent to a third country against his or her will.
  - 70. That the governments of the area take the necessary steps to eradicate the causes of the refugee problem.
  - 71. That once the bases for individual, voluntary repatriation have been agreed upon, with full guarantees for refugees, the receiving countries allow visits to the refugee camps by official delegations from the country of origin, accompanied by representatives of UNHCR and of the receiving country.
  - 72. That receiving countries facilitate exit procedures for refugees in the case of individual, voluntary repatriation, in coordination with UNHCR.
  - 73. To take the necessary steps in receiving countries to prevent the participation of refugees in illicit activities against the country of origin, with full respect at all times for the human rights of the refugees.

- In addition, the Committee shall be open to receiving information on those topics presented by organizations or individuals who can provide useful elements for evaluation.
  - The above-mentioned elements shall be used by the Committee in preparing periodic reports that shall not only contain its evaluation, but shall also include its proposals and recommendations for the better fulfillment of the commitments. This report shall be presented to the PARTIES and to the governments of the Contadora Group.
  - a) Membership
    - The Committee shall be composed of five (5) persons of recognized competence and impartiality, proposed by the States that make up the Contadora Group and accepted by joint agreement by the Parties. The Committee members must be of a different nationality from that of the Parties.
  - b) Duties
    - The committee shall receive and evaluate the reports that the Parties undertake to present on the manner in which they have proceeded to fulfill their commitments on matters of national reconciliation, human rights, electoral processes and refugees.
- PART II**
- COMMITMENTS REGARDING EXECUTION AND FOLLOW-UP**
- THE PARTIES have agreed to establish the following mechanisms for the purpose of the execution and follow-up of the commitments contained in this Act:
1. Ad hoc Committee for the Evaluation and follow-up of the Commitments regarding Political Issues and Refugees.
  2. Commission for the Verification and Control of Security Issues.
- c) Rules of Procedure
- The Committee shall draw up its own rules of procedure and make them known to the PARTIES.
- d) The Commission shall consist of:
- Four Commissioners representing States with recognized impartiality and a genuine interest in contributing to the solution of the Central American crisis, proposed by the Contadora Group and accepted by the PARTIES, with full voting rights in the Commission's decisions.

37.

- 36. - To verify that no new weapons that qualitatively and quantitatively modify present inventories are introduced, and that weapons prohibited in this Act are not employed.
- To establish a register of all commercial transfers of arms entered into by the PARTIES, including donations and other transactions carried out within the framework of military aid agreements with other governments.
- To verify the dismantling of foreign military installations in accordance with the terms of this Act.
- To receive a census of foreign military advisors and to verify the withdrawal of same according to the agreed upon schedule.
- To verify the fulfillment of the provisions of this Act on matters of arms traffic and to examine all complaints lodged in this respect. To that end, the following criteria must be considered:
  - a) Establishment
 

The commission shall be established no later than thirty (30) days after the signing of this Act.
  - b) Duties
    - To receive current inventories of arms, installations and armed effectives from the PARTIES, prepared in accordance with the terms set out in the Annex.
    - To carry out studies of a technical nature that will be of service in fixing maximum limits for the military development of the PARTIES of the region in accordance with the basic criteria established in commitment 22 of this Act.
  - c) Duties
    - 1) Origin of arms traffic: Under this heading, clearly identify the port or airport of embarkation of the weapons, ammunition, equipment and other kinds of military supplies destined for the Central American region.
    - 2) Personnel involved: persons, groups or organizations involved in arranging and carrying out the arms traffic, including the participation of governments or their representatives.

- 3) Types of weapons, ammunition, equipment and other kinds of military supplies: Under this heading describe the type of weapons, their caliber and the country of manufacture, if the exporting country is not the same as the country of manufacture, together with the quantities of each type of weapon, ammunition, equipment and other kinds of military supplies.
- 4) Extraregional means of transport: Note the means of land, sea or air transport, including its nationality.
- 5) Extraregional transport routes: Identify the traffic routes that have been used before reaching Central American territory, including stopovers or intermediate destinations.
- 6) Bases for the storage of weapons, ammunition, equipment and other kinds of military supplies.
- 7) Intraregional traffic routes and areas: Describe the areas and routes and the participation or tacit consent of governments or of governmental or political sectors in the arms traffic. Include the frequency of use of these areas and routes.
- 8) International means of transport: Identify the means of transport used, the ownership of these means and the facilities provided by governments, or by governmental or political sectors, specifying whether the case involves clandestine flights that land war matériel, packages dropped by parachute or the use of small boats loaded on the high seas.
- 9) Receiving unit: Identify the persons, groups or organizations receiving the arms traffic.
- To verify the fulfillment of the provisions of this Act regarding irregular forces and the non-use of national territory for launching destabilizing actions against another State, and to examine any complaints lodged in this respect.
  - To verify the fulfillment of procedures for notification of national or joint military maneuvers as specified in this Act.
- d) Norms and procedures
- The Commission shall receive all duly-substantiated reports of violations of the security commitments assumed in this Act, shall communicate them to the PARTIES involved and shall initiate the investigations it deems pertinent.

- 3. Ad hoc Committee for the Evaluation and Follow-up Procedure of Commitments on Economic and Social Matters.
  - a) Membership
    - For the purposes of this Act, the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Central American Economic Integration shall constitute the Ad Hoc Committee for the Evaluation and Follow-up of Commitments on Economic and Social Matters.
  - b) Duties
    - The Committee shall receive reports from the PARTIES on their progress in the fulfillment of the commitments on economic and social matters.
    - The Committee shall carry out periodic evaluations of the progress made in fulfilling the commitments on economic and social matters, on the basis of information supplied by the PARTIES and by qualified international and regional agencies.
    - In its periodic reports, the Committee shall put forward proposals for strengthening regional co-operation and the momentum of development Plans, with particular emphasis on the aspects noted in the commitments included in this Act.
  - c) Rules of Procedure
    - The Commission, once established, shall draw up its own rules of procedure and shall communicate them to the PARTIES.

42.

43.

PART III  
FINAL PROVISIONS

1. The commitments undertaken by the PARTIES in this Act are of a legal nature, and are therefore obligatory.
2. This Act shall be ratified in accordance with the established constitutional procedures in each Central American State. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Governments of the States that make up the Contadora Group.
3. This Act shall enter into effect when the five Central American signatory States have deposited their instruments of ratification.
4. The PARTIES, as of the date of signing, shall abstain from all acts that may serve to thwart the aims and purposes of this Act.
5. Thirty (30) days after the signing of this Act, the mechanisms referred to in Part II shall begin provisional functioning. The PARTIES shall take the necessary steps, before the expiration of this time limit, to ensure the aforementioned provisional functioning.
6. Any controversy over the interpretation or application of the provisions of this Act which has not been successfully resolved by employing the mechanisms provided in Part II must be submitted to the consideration of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the PARTIES for their examination and decision, which shall require a unanimous affirmative vote.
7. If the controversy persists, it shall be submitted to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group, who shall meet upon the request of any of the PARTIES.
8. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group shall exercise their good offices in aiding the PARTIES concerned to resolve the specific situation submitted to their consideration. If this measure fails, they may suggest another means for the peaceful solution of the controversy in accordance with Article 33 of the United Nations Charter, and Article 24 of the Charter of the Organization of American States.

45.

## ANNEX

44. The PARTIES agree upon the following definitions of military terms:
1. Register: Numerical or graphic data relating to military, paramilitary and security personnel and military installations.
  2. Inventory: Detailed listing of national or foreign-owned weapons and military equipment, with as many specifications as possible.
  3. Census: Numerical data relating the foreign military or civilian personnel serving as advisors on defense and/or security matters.
  4. Military installation: An establishment or infrastructure facility, including airports, barracks, forts, encampments, aerial and naval or similar installations under military jurisdiction, including their geographical location.
  5. Organization and equipment table (OET): Document containing data on the mission, organization, equipment, capacity and limitations of a given type of military unit at its different levels.
  6. Military equipment: Material, including both individual and joint elements, national or foreign-owned, destined for use and operation by a military force, and not including weapons.
  7. Weapons classification:
    - a) By their nature:
      1. Conventional
      2. Chemical
      3. Biological
      4. Radiological
9. This Act admits no reservations.
10. This Act shall be registered by the PARTIES before the United Nations Secretary-General and the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, in accordance with Article 102 of the United Nations Charter and Article 118 of the Charter of the Organization of American States.
- Prepared in Spanish, in nine original copies, in the city of , 1984.

- b) By their range:
1. Short: Individual and collective portable weapons.
  2. Medium: Non-portable support weapons (mortars, howitzers and cannons)
  3. Long: Rockets and guided missiles, divided as follows:
    - a. Short-range rockets: maximum range less than twenty (20) kilometers.
    - b. Long-range rockets: having a range of twenty (20) kilometers or more.
    - c. Short-range guided missile: maximum range up to one hundred (100) kilometers.
    - d. Medium-range guided missile: range between one hundred (100) kilometers and less than five hundred (500) kilometers.
    - e. Long-range guided missile: range five hundred (500) kilometers or more.
- c) By caliber and weight:
1. Light: One hundred and twenty (120) millimeters or less.
  2. Medium: Over one hundred and twenty (120) millimeters and less than one hundred and sixty (160).
  3. Heavy: Over one hundred and sixty (160) millimeters and less than two hundred and ten (210) millimeters.
  4. Very Heavy: Over two hundred and ten (210) millimeters.
- d) By trajectory:
1. Direct fire weapons
  2. Curved trajectory weapons
- a. Mortars
- b. Howitzers
- c. Cannons
- d. Rockets
- e) By means of transport
1. On foot
  2. Horse traction
  3. Towed or tractor-hauled
  4. Self-propelled
- f) All weapons can be transported by road, rail, sea or air.
- g) Those transported by air are classified as follows:
- a. Carried by helicopter
  - b. Carried by airplane
- h) Characteristics to be considered for different kinds of planes and helicopters:
1. Planes and helicopters:
    - a) Model
    - b) Quantity
    - c) Crew
    - d) Make
    - e) Speed
    - f) Capacity
    - g) Propulsion System
    - h) Armed or unarmed
    - i) Type of weapons
    - j) Operating range
    - k) Navigation system
    - l) Communications system
    - m) Type of mission performed
- i) Characteristics to be considered for different kinds of ships or embarkations:
1. Characteristics to be considered for different kinds of ships or embarkations:

15. **Arms traffic:** Arms traffic is defined as every type of transfer on the part of regional or extraregional governments, persons or groups of arms destined for groups, irregular forces or armed bands seeking to destabilize governments in the region. This also includes such traffic passing through the territory of a third State, with or without its consent, destined for the above-mentioned groups in another State.
16. National military maneuvers: Training exercises or simulated combat or war games carried out by troops during peacetime. A country's armed forces participate within their own territory in such maneuvers, and may include land, sea and air units for the purpose of increasing operational capacity.
17. International military maneuver: All operations carried out by the armed forces of two or more countries in the territory of one of them or in an international zone, and including land, sea and air units, for the purpose of increasing their operational capacity and to develop joint coordination measures.
18. The inventories prepared in each State deal separately with each branch of the armed forces, taking into account the number of military personnel, weapons and ammunition, equipment and installations of the forces mentioned below, in accordance with their own organizational structure:
- a) Security forces:
    - 1. Border guards
    - 2. Urban and rural guards
    - 3. Military forces assigned to other ministries
    - 4. Public security forces
    - 5. Instruction and training centres
    - 6. Others
  - b) Naval forces:
    - 1. Location
    - 2. Type of base
    - 3. Number and characteristics of the naval fleet. Type of arms.
    - 4. Defense system. Type of arms.
    - 5. Communications systems
    - 6. War matériel services
    - 7. Air or land transport services
    - 8. Health services
    - 9. Maintenance services
19. Services: Logistical and organizational organizations providing general support for military, paramilitary and security forces.
20. Military education centres: Installations for the basic training, instruction and advanced training of military personnel in their different levels and specialities.
21. Military base: Land, sea and air bases including military installations, personnel and equipment under military command.
22. Military base: Land, sea and air bases including military installations, personnel and equipment under military command.
- The definition of foreign military base must take the following elements into account:
- Its administration and control
  - Financing sources
  - Percentage of local and foreign personnel
  - Bilateral accords
  - Location and geographical area
  - Transferral of part of a nation's territory to another State.
  - Number of military personnel
23. Foreign military installations: Those which have been constructed for the use of foreign units for maneuvers, training or other military purposes, in accordance with bilateral pacts or agreements; such installations may be of either a temporary or a permanent nature.
24. Foreign military advisors: Military and security advisors are defined as foreign military or civilian personnel who perform technical, training or advisory duties in the following operational areas: tactics, logistics, strategy, organic and security, within the land, sea, air or security forces of Central American States according to agreements established with one or various governments.

- 10. Quartermaster services
- 11. Recruitment and length of service
- 12. Instruction and training centre
- 13. Others
- 14. Others ~
- c) Air forces:
- 1. Location
- 2. Runway capacity
- 3. Number and characteristics of the air fleet. Type of arms.
- 4. Defense system. Type of arms
- 5. Communications system
- 6. War matériel services
- 7. Health services
- 8. Ground transport services
- 9. Instruction and training centres
- 10. Maintenance services
- 11. Quartermaster corps
- 12. Recruitment and length of service
- 13. Others
- d) Army forces:
- 1. Infantry
- 2. Motorized infantry
- 3. Airborne infantry
- 4. Cavalry
- 5. Artillery
- 6. Armored vehicles
- 7. Signal corps
- 8. Engineers
- 9. Special troops
- 10. Reconnaissance troops
- 11. Health services
- 12. Transport services
- 13. War matériel services
- 14. Maintenance services
- 15. Quartermaster services
- 16. Military Police
- 17. Instruction and training centres
- e) Paramilitary forces
- f) Requirements for information on airports: Existing airfields:
- 1. Detailed location and category
- 2. Location of installations
- 3. Dimensions of runways, taxiways and maintenance areas
- 4. Facilities: Buildings and installations for maintenance, fuel storage, navigational aids and communications systems.
- g) Requirements for information on terminals and ports:
- 1. Location and general characteristics
- 2. Entrance and access channels
- 3. Breakwaters
- 4. Capacity of the terminal
- h) Personnel: Data requirements regarding personnel include the number of personnel on active service, in the reserves, in security forces and paramilitary organizations; similar data on advisors must include numbers, migratory status, specialization, nationality and length of stay in the country, and agreements or contracts if applicable.
- i) With regard to weapons, data must be supplied on all types of ammunition, explosives, munitions for portable weapons, artillery, bombs and torpedoes, rockets, hand and rifle grenades, depth charges, land and sea mines, fuses, mortar and howitzer shells, etc.
- j) Information on national and foreign military installations must include data on military hospitals and first-aid stations, naval bases, airports and landing strips.

ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONTADORA ACT FOR PEACE AND  
COOPERATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA

The undersigned PLENIPOTENTIARIES, fully empowered by their respective governments:

5. This Protocol shall enter into effect for each signatory State on the date on which it is signed by each one.
6. This Protocol shall be deposited with the governments of the States comprising the Contadora Group.
7. This Protocol admits no reservations.
8. This Protocol shall be registered with the United Nations General Secretariat, in accordance with Article 102 of the United Nations Charter.

CONVINCED that the effective collaboration of the international community is necessary in order to assure the full, effective and viable operation of the Contadora Act for Peace and Cooperation in Central America, adopted by the countries of said region,

Have agreed on the following:

1. To abstain from actions that thwart the aims and purpose of the Act.
  2. To cooperate with Central American States in the terms requested by them by common agreement for the purpose of attaining the aims and purpose of the Act.
  3. To lend their full support to the Commission on Verification and Control of Security Matters in the fulfillment of its duties, when so required by the PARTIES.
  4. This Protocol shall be open for signing to all States desiring to contribute to peace and cooperation in Central America. The signing shall be carried out before any of the depository governments of the Act.
- |  |  |
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| <p>For the Government of Colombia</p> <hr/> <p>For the Government of Venezuela</p> <hr/> <p>For the Government of Panama</p> | <p>For the Government of Mexico</p> <hr/> <p>For the Government of Ecuador</p> <hr/> <p>For the Government of Costa Rica</p> |
|--|--|