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Economic Commission for Latin America

REPORT OF THE FIFTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF  
THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
(New York, 22-23 July, 1982)

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During the Fifteenth Special Session of the Committee of the Whole held in New York on 23 July 1982, the following resolution concerning international assistance for Nicaragua and Honduras was adopted by consensus.

RESOLUTION 419 (PLEN.15) International assistance to alleviate the economic and social problems faced by Nicaragua and Honduras as a result of the May 1982 floods

The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that the scope of the damage caused by the floods that occurred in Nicaragua and Honduras during the end of May entails an additional economic burden on the people of both countries, which has been added to the unfavorable international economic conditions of the past two years, and, in the case of Nicaragua, is further added to the obstacles to that country's development posed by the damages previously caused by the 1972 earthquake and particularly the 1978-1979 armed conflict;

Bearing in mind that these floods caused the loss of human lives as well as great damage to the physical and social infrastructure, especially in agriculture, over more than one-third of the Nicaraguan territory, and over a smaller area of southern Honduras;

Further bearing in mind that agriculture constitutes the primary source of foreign exchange for both countries and that this activity was one of the most affected as a result of the losses in crops and inputs, aggravated in the case of Nicaragua by having inflicted damage of slow and difficult recovery to land and forestry resources which will reduce for some time the crop lands available for exportable raw materials and staple goods for domestic consumption;

/Bearing

Bearing in mind also that the adverse consequences attributable to the recent international economic situation have further complicated the severe foreign exchange shortages both of Honduras and Nicaragua, a circumstance which the floods have only accentuated, and which have acquired even bigger proportions in the case of Nicaragua due to the financial burden corresponding to the servicing of the large debt inherited from the previous administration and the one recently acquired by the Government of National Reconstruction;

Recalling Resolutions 34/8, 35/84 and 36/213 adopted by the General Assembly in its XXXIV, XXXV and XXXVI sessions, respectively and the recommendations contained in Resolution 416 (Plen. 12) of CEPAL's Committee of the Whole, dealing with international assistance for the rehabilitation, reconstruction and development of Nicaragua after the prolonged war which ended in July 1979, and which continue to be totally relevant after this new natural disaster;

Taking note of the report prepared by the Secretariat of CEPAL, which provides detailed information on the effects on Nicaragua's economic development caused by the floods, and on the additional requirements of international cooperation brought on by the disaster;

Taking further note that the Governments and the people of Nicaragua and Honduras undertook with all due speed and efficiency the tasks imposed on them by this new emergency, thereby saving many human lives, in addition to having immediately adopted the necessary actions toward the rehabilitation of their respective economies and the repair of damages to the greatest extent possible;

1. Conveys its deepest sympathy to the peoples and the Governments of Nicaragua and Honduras for the loss of human lives and for the damages suffered as a result of the floods;

2. Expresses its gratitude to the Member Governments of CEPAL and to the member countries of the United Nations, the bilateral agencies and the international organizations that have provided emergency relief to the Governments of Nicaragua and Honduras to face this new disaster;

/3. Urges

3. Urges the governments and the organizations in question to expand their past cooperation and intensify their support in the rehabilitation of the physical and social infrastructure of Nicaragua and Honduras, adding their efforts to those undertaken by the people of both countries, and thus avoiding further deterioration of the already precarious living conditions of their populations, also alleviating to the largest extent possible, the serious financial disequilibria prevailing in both of these nations;

4. Also invites those governmental organizations collaborating with Nicaragua and Honduras on a bilateral level, to support those countries' efforts either in the form of donations or by the granting of concessional loans to meet the emergency, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development programs they are presently facing;

5. Appeals to the governments of member States of the World Bank (IBRD), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) and, if appropriate, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), that, bearing in mind the existing program of cooperation that their respective organizations have been carrying out in one or both countries, their executive directors should particularly take into account the additional financial needs emerging from the recent floods, and that their organizations contribute to their utmost capacity and in the best terms possible to the tasks of rehabilitation and reconstruction which the governments of Nicaragua and Honduras submit for their consideration;

6. Also invites the Governments of the member States of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), to instruct their representatives on the Executive Board of that Fund to consider with sympathy any requests for aid that may be submitted by the Governments of Nicaragua and Honduras;

7. Urges the Latin American member States of the Commission to intensify their efforts in support of the reconstruction of Nicaragua within the framework of the action committee of the Latin American

Economic System (SELA), specifically established for that purpose in accordance with Decision No. 43 of the Latin American Council which under the present circumstances acquires renewed relevance;

8. Appeals to the Governments of the member States of the United Nations who are able to do so, to permit, to the extent possible under existing obligations, products of Nicaraguan and Honduran origin access to their markets on non-reciprocal terms for a reasonable period of time, thus helping those countries to obtain the foreign exchange they so urgently require to meet their financial commitments and continue with their development program;

9. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to ask all specialized agencies and bodies within the United Nations system to make available as high a level of resources as possible to Honduras and Nicaragua and to expand their programmes as required, in accordance with the priorities established by the Governments of those countries;

10. Also requests that the United Nations Development Programme give prompt attention and serious consideration to the requests for special assistance which the Governments of Nicaragua and Honduras may submit to it in the near future, bearing in mind the additional requirements deriving from the present circumstances and the need to help promote the development of those countries, having recourse if necessary to the Special Programme Reserve during the third programming cycle;

11. Requests the Secretariat of the Commission, the Latin American Economic and Social Planning Institute (ILPES), and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), to respond favorably within their possibilities, to the requests submitted by the Governments of Nicaragua and Honduras, particularly regarding those programs related to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of their countries;

12. Urges the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations to approve the present resolution.