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That implementation and verification of the planned measures are the main obstacles facing the negotiators was evident at the summit held in San José, Costa Rica on 11 and 16 January 1988. Talks between the Governments of Guatemala and El Salvador and their respective opponents to negotiate a cease-fire have yet to produce serious results. On 23 February 1989 the Salvadoran army unilaterally declared a cease-fire until 1 June, when President Duarte was to step down. However, the guerrillas immediately rejected the declaration and launched a series of attacks on military installations, declaring that they would accept only a negotiated cease-fire by early February 1989 in accord with a treaty by the Governments of Honduras and Nicaragua. The Hondurans agreed to make serious moves towards democratization and ensure free procedures at the elections set for February 1990, in return for demands by the Honduran Government to disband the contra forces operating within its borders.

At Tesoro Beach, El Salvador on 13-14 February 1989, the five Central American Presidents held a Summit meeting to "reactivate the Arca Plan". The five agreed to the Honduran-Nicaraguan accord reached days earlier, with the additional provision that the contra forces and their families operating within Honduran borders would be repatriated or moved to other countries after disarming. Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega reaffirmed his intention to eliminate all conscription laws and hold all-level government elections no later than February 1990. At the Summit, the Presidents also agreed to invite UN observers into the region.

On 14 February 1989, in a letter to UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuellar, Foreign Ministry officials from all five signatories of the Peace Accord requested that a team of unarmed military observers from Canada, Spain and West Germany, as well as from an unnamed Latin American country, be sent to Central America. The main task of the observers would be to verify that none of the countries involved in the peace process supports any subversive activities against a neighbour country, to report on cross-border guerrilla movements, and to observe the 1990 Nicaraguan elections. Canada, Spain and West Germany have agreed to take part in the observer mission and are now awaiting a formal request from the UN Secretary-General for more information on Peacekeeping and Observation, Chapter 13 of *The Handbook of Peacekeeping*.