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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY, DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

Letter dated 8 October 1979 from the Permanent Representatives of
Mexico and Panama to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the following texts:

(a) Address by the Chairman of the Latin American Group,
Ambassador Jorge E. Illueca (Panama) at the meeting held by the regional group in
honour of His Excellency Mr. Jose Lopez Portillo, President of the United Mexican
States, at United Nations Headquarters on 27 September 1979 (annex I).

(b) Address by His Excellency Mr. Jose Lopez Portillo, President of the
United Mexican States, at the meeting held in his honour by the Latin American
Group at United Nations Headquarters on 27 September 1979 (annex II).

We request that the text of these addresses should be circulated as an official
document of the General Assembly under items 46 and 55 of the agenda.

(Signed) Porfirio MUÑOZ LEDO
Permanent Representative
of Mexico
to the United Nations

(Signed) Jorge E. ILLUECA
Permanent Representative
of Panama
to the United Nations

ANNEX I

Address by the Chairman of the Latin American Group,
Ambassador Jorge E. Illueca (Panama) at the meeting
held by the regional group in honour of
His Excellency Mr. Jose Lopez Portillo, President of
the United Mexican States, at United Nations
Headquarters on 27 September 1979

Bolivar, in the Charter of Jamaica, invoked the legend of Quetzalcóatl to show how that noble figure of ancient Mexican mythology could return after centuries, as a patron of culture and the arts, to perform the miracle of uniting the countries of South America against foreign domination, instituting free governments and benevolent laws and laying the foundations for their well-being.

The address which you, Mr. President, delivered at the plenary meeting of the General Assembly ^{a/} honours this tradition and served to confirm the outstanding leadership which the Latin American peoples have always expected from Mexico in the process of the unification and integration of Latin America and the establishment of order in the world.

We salute in you, Mr. President, the enlightened foreign policy of your country. Its international doctrines are a worthy expression of the right thinking developed by the best champions of the genuine interests of Latin America.

We salute in you, Mr. President, Mexico's admirable and devoted efforts in support of decolonization, the effective enjoyment of the right of self-determination of peoples, respect for the principle of non-intervention, recognition of the economic rights and duties of States and of the idea of the peaceful settlement of international disputes. We further salute Mexico's brilliant contributions to the development and codification of international law, to the jurisprudence of the International Court of Justice and to the new international economic order.

We salute in you, Mr. President, the democratic statesman, the honourable Head of State, the scrupulous administrator, the vigorous champion of his country's national interests and the experienced leader whose skill and dedication are commensurate with the heavy responsibilities he bears for the good of Mexico and the ideal of Latin American integration.

We salute in you, Mr. President, the culture of Mexico, the accomplishments of its universities, its humanists, its lawyers, its painters, its writers, its musicians, its poets, and of those who have shaped the many manifestations of its art, which carries an enduring message of liberty and justice.

^{a/} A/34/PV.11, pp. 2-21.

We salute in you, Mr. President, Mexican nationalism, the mirror of Latin American nationalism, which is committed, in the present international situation, to exposing the problems of the region and arriving at solutions without any outside interference, to working out new forms of joint action designed to promote the authentic values of all our countries and, with due regard to our national interests and national sovereignty, to glorify the distinctive character of Latin America.

We salute in you, Mr. President, the truth of the maxim of Juarez that "peace can be defined as respect for the rights of others", and it is the philosophy of Juarez that is graven in the conscience of generations of Latin Americans.

We salute in you, Mr. President, the Mexican Revolution, the mother and patroness of all Latin American revolutions of our era.

We salute in you, Mr. President, the businessmen and the workers who are pulling together, day after day, to advance the development of your country.

In you, Mr. President, we salute Mexico as a precursor of the United Nations Declaration on Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources, which Lázaro Cárdenas anticipated when he nationalized Mexico's oil resources. Those resources now open up new avenues of success for Mexico and of hope for Latin America and the third world, based on the world energy plan you suggested in your timely proposal in the United Nations.

In the person of your wife, Mr. President, we salute the first lady of Mexico, a splendid example of the Latin American woman, and through her we wish to pay a tribute to the mothers of Mexico who stoically nurtured the glorious lineage of the Niños Héroes of Chapultepec.

For the ordinary man in Latin America, Mexico has a special symbolism. As the centre of Mayan and Aztec culture, it is crowned with the legendary halo of one of the two great indigenous civilizations on the continent of America.

The epic of your independence and your purifying revolution stirs feelings of affection for Mexico because it was a struggle to the death for freedom and for the democratic ideals moulded into the Constitution of Queretaro with the perfume of freedom. It is therefore natural for the new generations once again to depend on Mexico to bring to fruition the great unifying effort that began at the Congress of Panama and was still unfinished at Tacubaya.

In the great Mexico built by the Aztec heroes, independence and revolution are again bearing fruit in the form of prosperity and progress. The land of the Aztecs has shown itself to be a miraculous creature which has withstood the painful dismemberment and bloodshed of its revolution only to spring to exuberant life again, expanding its influence in international forums and giving new vigour to its body politic.

Like all the peoples of Latin America, those of Mexico and Panama have common problems, common needs and common interests. We have our own experience to draw

upon. The efforts to control the great waterways of the world made Mexico, Panama and Central America the coveted prey of colonialism and imperialism on the continent and outside it.

The last of the trilogy of sinister treaties under which the Tehuantepec, Rio San Juan, Nicaraguan Great Lake and Panama Isthmus routes were controlled by the United States monopoly will be abrogated on 1 October. On that memorable day, Mr. President, at the special invitation of the President of Panama, Dr. Aristides Royo, we hope you will honour us by taking part in the celebrations to be held in the city of Panama and by sending your words out from that crossroads of the world to international public opinion.

The presence of the Mexican eagle in the heart of Bolivar's association of States is a pledge of faith that neither colonialism, imperialism nor any form of foreign domination will ever again prosper in the Isthmus of Panama. We shall demonstrate that Latin America is a land of eagles, condors and quetzals where the blood of Cuauhtemoc and Atahualpa will continue to fertilize the furrows in which the unifying seeds sown by Bolivar, San Martin, de Andrada, Artigas, Morazán and all the liberators of our peoples are flowering again.

Through me, Mr. President, the delegations of Latin America wish to convey to you our fraternal feelings of solidarity and admiration for the eternal values of the Mexican nation and to extend our best wishes for its prosperity and advancement. Your illustrious presence in the Latin American Group, President and Mrs. Lopez Portillo, provides a happy opportunity to reiterate to your people Latin America's affection for your open and generous country whose walls bear the imprint of the kisses of Neruda's Canto general.

ANNEX II

Address by His Excellency Mr. Jose Lopez Portillo, President
of the United Mexican States, at the meeting held in his
honour by the Latin American Group at United Nations
Headquarters on 27 September 1979

I am very pleased to be meeting here with my Latin American brothers as a representative of the people of Mexico. I have seldom heard such high praise for my country and I am very much moved and touched by it. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for those kind words; I will never forget them and I will convey them to my people so that they may serve as a mirror of their history, a pride in their present and a hope for their future. We have been deeply touched by your words.

I should like us to take a few moments to reflect on what has happened in the last few months in the structure and mission of Latin America. I should like to stress three events and if I was a participant in one of them, I hope you will forgive my immodesty.

First, there was the struggle of Nicaragua against its internal difficulties from which it has emerged triumphant and optimistic - an example of Latin America fighting and winning over opposition from inside.

Then there was the tenacious struggle of Panama against outside pressures and its fight for decolonization, which it is continuing to win over the imperialist forces of the American continent - an example of the struggle of Latin America against opposition from outside.

Finally, there was the modest but sincere and honest proposal, which we helped to launch, namely, to establish, strengthen and give practical and concrete expression to a new international order - an example of the struggle of Latin America to overcome opposition from the world at large.

Thus, Latin America is striving against internal and external forces to bring order into the world in response to the imperatives of Latin American unity and the Latin American image.

I should like to dwell on what I just said in the General Assembly, a/ because I shall shortly have an opportunity in Panama to praise the determination of the Panamanians and the decisiveness with which they achieved their liberation, as I did with regard to the revolutionary forces of the Nicaraguan people.

We must come to understand that in order to continue to give substance to the economic rights and duties of States, the present conflict between the industrial countries and the producer-exporter countries must be seen less as a problem of

a/ A/34/PV.11, pp. 2-21.

principles than as one of method. It is a problem of strategy, that is, how to channel our forces to the area of decision-making. That will be where tactics come in.

So it is a problem not of conflict of principles, but of channelling our efforts towards the area of decision-making. A problem of methodology. We have confused principles with methodology. Let us be clear about this, and let us recognize that these are methodological problems and that if we keep the objective clearly before us, we shall be perfectly capable of making progress towards the solution of a well-defined problem.

As I just said - and forgive me for insisting on this point, but I think it is important for me to emphasize it in this meeting of brother nations - the point is to understand what the objective is if we are to understand and resolve the crisis. Crisis is danger. It is risk, but it is also opportunity. We have a great opportunity before us. Our crisis is significant because we are astride two eras in mankind's access to energy: one, which developed with fossil fuels and is only going to last a hundred years, whether we like it or not, and one which can be assured from the next century onwards and may or may not last because it represents the alternative.

Yes, the objective of our efforts is the solution of a crisis, a temporary crisis, certainly not a crisis of prices or shortages. The problem we face in this transition period is to take advantage of these two decades to cross over from one energy phase to another energy phase. That should be the object of our analysis and our decisions.

If we perceive the problem in those terms, we can bring order into the world. Let us use what can be used of the petroleum which is going to be wasted and let us prepare for the arrival of other new sources of energy which are within grasp but which we have not been able to exploit because we assume that the problem lies with fossil fuels. No, the problem lies in the failure of two generations to understand to which we can testify.

We are protagonists. We can be no more than actors. We can be authors. It is a problem of political will, and it is to the political will of the world that I tried to direct my remarks today because since we perceive the problem as one of method and not of conflict of principles, since we perceive the solution as strategy and not as tactics - because a fight is brewing and it is poorly timed - we conduct ourselves with restraint because order will have to come.

As I said, that order will either emerge from a reconciliation between sovereign nations or it will be imposed by force, after it is recognized as such, and in that struggle huge quantities of energy will have to be consumed, negating the gains we seek to achieve.

If we understand the objective and if we line up the instruments capable of achieving that objective and agree to set up a working group to prepare the

documents on which to base decisions aimed at achieving it, we shall be able to go forward steadily within the framework which justifies this United Nations forum, the only forum for the assertion of international dignity.

That is why it is our desire and resolve to strengthen the United Nations, for in the last analysis, it represents what we in this meeting want or can do. And I think the problem of fossil fuels is the most universal, the one that affects all of us. The other problems fall more heavily on some than on others; they are relative. But the only universal problem decisive for all of us is energy. If we fail to grasp the fact that energy is not only a raw material, but is the engine that drives the world in which we live, we shall be taking the wrong tack. Petroleum is not sugar, petroleum is not coffee, petroleum is not cotton, petroleum is energy. An energy source that makes the world turn.

If we resolve the energy transition problem in two decades, I am absolutely certain we will have built a more just order and that new order will be the path to peace - peace, which is not an abstraction but a concrete problem requiring concrete solutions now, solutions related basically to the energy problem.

I believe that this fully justifies the present-day course of Latin America, which is fighting inspiring battles. I am proud to belong to a generation of Latin Americans, aware of the crisis in which they find themselves and capable of doing battle within their country to liberate themselves from their ludicrous despots, of doing battle outside their country to achieve decolonization, and of making a modest contribution within their lights to the efforts to bring order to the world.
