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preliminary list\*

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STATES

Letter dated 18 June 1987 from the Permanent Representative of **Guyana**  
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request that the attached Final **Communiqué** and other documents of the Special Ministerial **Meeting** of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries **on Latin America and the Caribbean** held at Georgetown, **Guyana**, from 9 to 12 March 1987, be circulated among Member States as an official document. of **the** General Assembly, under **items 18, 27, 30, 33, 34, 36, 37, 39, 49, 83, 86, 102, 105, and 131** of the preliminary list, and of the Security **Council**.

**(Signed)** S. R. INSANALLY  
Ambassador  
**Permanent Representative**

ANNEX I

Final communiqué of the Special Ministerial Meeting of the  
Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries  
on Latin America and the Caribbean, held at Georgetown, Guyana  
from 9 to 12 March 1987

1. In pursuance of the decision of the Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries held at Luanda from 2 to 7 September, 1985, the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non Aligned Countries met in Special Ministerial Session in Georgetown from 9 to 12 March 1987, in order to examine the situation in the Latin American and Caribbean region.
2. The following members of the Co-ordinating Bureau participated: Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of, Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Korea, Democratic People's Republic of, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Panama, Peru, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vietnam, Yemen Arab Republic, Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of, Yugoslavia, Socialist Federal Republic of, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
3. The following members of the Movement also participated: Argentina, Barbados, Botswana, Comoros, Lesotho, and Mauritania.

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4. The following **countries**, organisations and national liberation **movements** attended **as observers**: African National Congress of South Africa, Brazil, Mexico, Philippines, Socialist Party of Puerto Rico, United Nations, Uruguay and Venezuela.

5. The following countries and **organisations** were also present as guests: Australia, Austria, Finland, Greece, Spain, Sweden, United Nations Council for Namibia, United Nations Development Programme and Latin-American Economic System.

6. At the inaugural session, the Meeting was privileged to hear an important statement by His Excellency, Hugh Desmond Hoyte, President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana. In his address, President Hoyte stressed that the Meeting was about peace, independence and security. It also dealt with the inviolability of the **sovereignty** of states, the respect for all peoples and their inalienable right to live free from fear, from intimidation and from aggression. The President emphasised that the pursuit of those objectives had been the historic struggle of the Non-Aligned Movement.

In speaking of the role of Latin America and the Caribbean in the Non-Aligned Movement, he stated that several meetings and conferences of our Movement had been held in this region at various levels and that those gatherings had served to heighten international recognition of the role which Latin America and the Caribbean played in strengthening the Movement and in extending its influence and increasing its effectiveness.

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He also affirmed that no less important had been the contribution which non-alignment had in turn made to developments in the region.

The President declared that the principles and values which the Movement was seeking to sustain and to have respected in relation to Latin America and the Caribbean could not be more effective than the States of the region were themselves prepared to allow. The foremost challenge, therefore, was for the region to demonstrate to the rest of the world the extent of its own commitment to those values and principles. It was essential, the President stated, that the States of the region show themselves to be the collective guardians and principal defenders both of their separate independence and of their common interests. He declared finally that non-alignment had a permanent, pervasive and constructive role to play in international affairs.

His Excellency the President of Guyana paid a warm tribute to the late President Samora Moises Machel of Mozambique who died in the struggle against apartheid and in defence of the principles of the Movement.

It was decided by acclamation to include the text of the address as a document of the Meeting.

7. The Ministers considered that recent developments in the Latin American and Caribbean region had vindicated the concern which they had expressed at their Extraordinary Meeting held in Managua in January 1983, and, subsequently, in respect of the region. Recalling, in particular, the comprehensive analysis of the situation

in Latin America and the Caribbean made by their Heads of State or Government at their Meeting in Harare in September 1986, they reaffirmed the continuing validity and relevance of the policy and of the principles of non-alignment, in particular the principles of self-determination; respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity; non-interference and non-interference in the internal affairs of States; peaceful coexistence; the non-use of force or the threat of use of force in international relations and the peaceful settlement of international disputes and respect for the obligations ensuing from Treaties and other sources of International Law. They stressed that the full and strict respect for these and other principles was the only guarantee of peaceful, stable and harmonious Inter-State relations.

8. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the growing impact of the principles and objectives of non-alignment and the role and policy of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries as a global, independent and non-bloc factor in Latin America and the Caribbean.

9. The Ministers recalled with satisfaction the first Extraordinary Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau dedicated to Latin America and the Caribbean which was held in Managua, Nicaragua, from 10 to 14 January 1983. They considered that the meeting was an important landmark in the struggle of Non-Aligned Countries against imperialism and colonialism, and in favour of regional peace and security and the further free development of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

10. They considered that the holding of their Special Meeting in Georgetown provided a most timely opportunity

for the Movement to seek to bring its undisputed influence to bear on **the development of the** situation in **Latin America** and the Caribbean, particularly **that** in Central America, in accordance with its well-known historic vocation **as a dynamic force** in the cause of the promotion of peaceful international **relations**.

11. They considered the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean with regard to the negative effects of the relations of domination and exploitation by colonial or imperialist powers. They stressed the fact that the States of this region had, for centuries and in varying degrees, been witness to an undeniable process of reassertion of dignity, self-respect and independence. These States were manifesting a determination and a capacity to deal with and to find solutions to the problems affecting their region, and to protect and promote their political and economic interests. Consistent with this spirit, the region was characterized by a renewed and dynamic national and independent reaffirmation and strongly rejecting any foreign attempts to perpetuate or re-establish colonial relations or any attempt to limit independence and sovereignty.

12. The Ministers noted with great satisfaction the progress taking place in Latin America and the Caribbean. They reaffirmed their support for the efforts of the peoples of the region to fully exercise and to ensure respect for their sovereignty and independence, and for their sovereign right to choose their own political, economic and social system, in accordance with their own needs and interests, and free from all outside interference.

They also hailed the efforts of the States and peoples of the region to strengthen their unity, solidarity and co-operation .

13. The Ministers noted that defence of human rights, respect, for individual freedoms and full and effective exercise of political and ideological pluralism constituted important factors in the progress of the peoples of the region.

14. The Ministers welcomed the re-establishment of democratic Governments in Latin America which enabled their people to realise their inalienable right to determine their own destinies freely. In this regard, they recognised the need to consolidate the democratic processes which were being seriously and directly undermined by the international economic crisis, particularly the problem of external indebtedness because of the far-reaching political, economic and social effects of that problem.

15. They regretted, however, the continued existence of military dictatorships in the region and they expressed support for the efforts of the peoples of these countries to recover their civil, political and social rights and for the integration of these countries into the democratic process taking place in the region.

16. The Ministers reiterated that faith in the United Nations was central to the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, They also stressed that the United Nations represented the most appropriate international forum with the central role in the maintenance of international peace and security and peaceful settlement of inter-



national disputes and crises; in the ● chievoasnt of the exercise of the right of self-determination of peoples under colonial domination and foreign occupation; in the strengthening of international co-operation in all fields on the basis of sovereign equality of States; and in the establishment of equitable and just economic relations as well as the strengthening of peaceful coexistence, universal détente, disarmament and development.

17. The Ministers analyzed the world economic situation and reaffirmed the validity of the conclusions of the Harare Summit. They noted with great concern the negative impact of the prolonged world economic crisis on the economies of the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

18. The Ministers observed that this crisis, the length, depth and scope of which gave it a structural nature, was the longest, most serious and most generalized of the last 50 years. The setbacks it brought about in the development processes of the countries of the region provoked a drop in the per capita gross national product, a heightening of social problems and great internal and external structural imbalances, all of which had generated serious balance of payments problems as a result of the high nominal and real interest rates and the fact - unprecedented in the history of Latin America and the Caribbean - that this region had become a net exporter of financial resources; of the ongoing and sharper deterioration in terms of trade, mainly attributable to the persistent decline in prices of the commodities and raw materials, including oil, exported by the region; and of the

**proliferation of protectionist barriers in the industrialized countries, Of all the regions of the world, Latin America and the Caribbean had the largest external debt. This debt had taken on M- - political dimensions, thus creating conditions that threatened the stability of the majority of the countries of the region and seriously affecting the living standards of their people. This was all reflected in a burden for the societies and Governments that, after years of economic and social sacrifices, was becoming intolerable.**

19. The Ministers underlined the fact that most developing countries had experienced either a decline or stagnation in their growth rates during the first half of the Third United Nations Development Decade in marked contrast to the 7% growth projected in the International Development Strategy. They noted that the limited economic recovery in some developed countries had not resulted in improving significantly the adverse economic situation faced by most developing countries. In this context, they stressed the critical importance of resources for development and regretted the decline in concessional financial flows to developing countries. They deplored that the Official Development Assistance (ODA) target of 0.71 of the gross national product (GNP) and the ODA targets under the Substantial New Programme of Action in favour of the Least Developed Countries remained unfulfilled.

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20. **The Ministers** reiterated **their** commitment to the Declaration and Program of Action on the Establishment of a New **International Economic Order** (General Assembly Resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) and the **Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States** (General Assembly Resolution 3281 (XXIX) ).

21. The Ministers reaffirmed their total commitment to the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations and called on **all** States to respect the democratic principles and the norms and practices governing the United Nations. They urged all States to respect their obligations under the Charter and aid the United Nations in overcoming its current financial difficulties. The Ministers expressed deep concern at recent efforts to undermine **multilateralism** and at the growing resort to **oilateralism** by some developed countries. They reiterated their determination to work towards the strengthening of the international institutions so as to ensure that their role and that of **multilateralism** in international economic co-operation **were** not eroded.

22. The Ministers expressed their full support for the **goals** of the work of the Special Commission of ECOSOC. In this regard, they agreed on the need for a close co-ordination of the positions of the **Non-Aligned Countries** in consultation with the G-77 in order to maintain a common position on **this** issue.

23. **The Ministers** restated their conviction that **collective self-reliance** was an essential part of the efforts of **Non-Aligned** and other developing countries

to restructure **international** economic relations. They emphasised that the greater *intensification* of economic co-operation **among** developing countries would not only **improve** their individual and collective prospects for development but also enhance their bargaining position **vis-a-vis** the developed countries. They re-affirmed that economic co-operation among developing countries was both an integral part of, and a vehicle for the establishment *of* the New International Economic Order. The Ministers stressed that one of the most effective ways to improve **the** developing countries' trade situation was to increase trade among the developing countries themselves. The Ministers, therefore urged all member countries of the Movement to participate in the Global System of Trade Preferences (CSTP) and • meet the deadlines established for presentation of offers and requests for concessions,

24. The Ministers noted with concern the negative impact that the world economic crisis has had upon the economies of the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. They observed that the crisis had retarded economic progress and thus had led to a decline in the per capita gross domestic product within the region to a level comparable to that of a decade ago; had worsened social problems; and had produced severe structural imbalances within the economies. They also noted the severity of the adjustment and s'abilisation programmes imposed on some countries in the region and concluded that the sacrifices entailed in the implementation of such programmes made it difficult for them to pursue the objective of promotion of economic development while at the same time meeting debt service payments,

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25. The Ministers expressed concern that the possibilities for **economic recovery** within the region were directly affected by the imbalances in the **international** economic and financial system. They **observed** that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean would need to pursue very carefully considered measures and policies to overcome the effect of those imbalances, particularly in the area of rates of exchange, interest rates, **international** liquidity and resource flows. They emphasised the need for an **increase** in the **resources** available to the **international** financial institutions and for a reorientation in the policies of those institutions towards those which more adequately respond to the diverse **requirements** of development within the region.

26. The Ministers also took note of the severe **balance-of-payments** problems facing the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and called for the urgent application of a facility for compensatory financing which could help offset such negative factors as the fall in commodity prices, the impact of natural disasters, and the high real rates of interest. They stressed the need for measures that could help transform official development assistance loans into grants and **increase** concessional flows to the economies of the smaller developing countries in the region.

27. The Ministers took note with deep concern of the fact that the external debt of Latin America and the Caribbean totalled almost 400 billion dollars and affirmed that that was the most disturbing effect of the global crisis upon the region and one reflection of the

inequalities of the existing unjust international economic order. They observed that most of the countries in the region were allocating to interest payments more than one-third of their foreign exchange receipts and one-quarter of their domestic savings, which severely inhibited the capacity to import, and the accumulation of capital for growth and new productive activities. The Ministers affirmed, therefore, that the external debt of Latin America and the Caribbean could not be paid under current conditions and without sustained economic development. The Ministers concluded that a definitive and global solution to the debt problem would require a political dialogue between debtors and creditors, including international financial and banking institutions, all of which shared responsibility for solving the problems of indebtedness of the developing countries under the principle of co-responsibility and the right to development, turning back the net transfer of resources affecting the region, giving differential treatment to the current and future debt, and undertaking immediate, simultaneous actions in the monetary, financial and trade spheres that would make it possible for the developing debtor countries to respond to the situation.

28. The Ministers reaffirmed the right of all States to choose their economic system *freely*, regulate their economic activities and make their own decisions regarding the policies they considered *suitable* to face the crisis and foster their development, including debt servicing. In this context, the Ministers observed that, in the absence of a global solution, some debtor countries might be forced by circumstances to adopt certain measures

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which they considered appropriate and in their own best interests.

29. The Ministers were also of the view that debt service, inter alia, should reflect the real capacity of each country to repay, based on level of export income or the behaviour of other economic variables. They called upon the international community to adopt the necessary measures towards this end. They drew attention to the needs of the smaller developing countries within the region and, in particular, to their needs for relief from service of debt to bilateral and multilateral institutions. They indicated that a failure to respond to such needs could contribute to the outgrowth of domestic, social and political instability which could, in turn, threaten the growing consolidation of democracy within the region.

30. The Ministers welcomed the United Nations General Assembly Resolution adopted by consensus during its forty-first session on the strengthening of international economic co-operation aimed at resolving external debt problems of developing countries, and emphasised the need to translate the elements contained therein into a broader set of more concrete guidelines and measures. They supported further actions in this regard by the Group of 77 and the Group of 24 in all relevant forums and particularly the seventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

31. The Ministers took note with satisfaction of the conclusions of the First Consultative Meeting of Experts of Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries held in

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Lima, Peru, *from 12-14 November 1986*, to exchange information on relative national experiences in dealing with the external debt problem and its processes of renegotiation. They agreed that such consultations would strengthen efforts being made to seek solutions to the debt problem and urged that the initiative begun at Lima be pursued at an early date through further exchanges. In this context, the Ministers welcomed the offer by the Kingdom of Morocco to host the second meeting of the Movement on this issue.

32. The Ministers agreed that the launching of the Uruguay Round was a positive step but noted that the success of the Round would depend on its achieving equitable solutions to several international trade problems. They observed that among such necessary solutions would be the halting and reversing of protectionism through the immediate implementation of agreements on Standstill and Rollback arrangements reached by Governments at the Punta del Este Meeting; favourable treatment of trade in agricultural goods and tropical and material resources, basic products as well as regulation by GATT of the barriers to that trade; and an expansion and liberalisation of trade which would improve market access for the products of developing countries. The Ministers noted that special and differential treatment in favour of developing countries was the cornerstone of multilateral trade negotiations and that to monitor such treatment it was essential to maintain and develop regional co-ordination on this topic. The Ministers reiterated that negotiations on goods and those on services should be kept separate.

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33. The Ministers urged the Government of the United States to reconsider and modify recent measures aimed at excluding certain Latin American products from the benefits of the Generalized System of Preferences (CSP); at increasing protectionist measures against the main Caribbean products; and at reducing the sugar exporters' quotas to the United States, considering the fact that sugar was one of the main export items of many Latin American and Caribbean countries.

34. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the forthcoming Seventh United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD VII) as an opportunity for promoting international economic co-operation in the fields of trade and development. They also highlighted the need for the Latin American Regional Ministerial Meeting as well as the African and Asian regional meetings and the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the Group of 77, which precede UNCTAD VII, to adopt concrete proposals which would facilitate the negotiations at UNCTAD VII and would allow it to reach decisions that take fully into account the interests of the developing countries. The Ministers reiterated that UNCTAD VII represented a universal forum in which to seek integrated solutions in the fields of money and finance, trade, including commodities, external debt and development.

35. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the holding of the Regional Conference on Commodities in Guatemala in January of this year and the adoption of the Guatemala Declaration and Plan of Action on Commodities, and urged their implementation.

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36. The Ministers took note with interest of the Lima Communiqué agreed in October 1986 by those Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean, members of the Latin American Economic System, and also of the Declaration of Mexico, agreed in January 1987, which embodied the conclusions of the Extraordinary Conference of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The Ministers noted that the two documents reflected the position of the region on measures for overcoming the crisis facing the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean and for promoting development within the region.

37. The Ministers deplored the tendency of some developed countries to resort to unilateral coercive and discriminatory economic policies and practices as a means of exerting economic and political pressure on the members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and other developing countries in flagrant violation of the provisions of the United Nations Charter and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. They urged those developed countries to refrain from applying, or threatening to apply, trade restrictions, blockages, embargoes, sanctions or any other coercive measure, or the threat or use of force, all of which were incompatible with the provisions of the United Nations Charter. They expressed their full solidarity with those Non-Aligned and other developing countries victims of such pressures - in their efforts to consolidate their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. They drew particular attention to the

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adoption, by some international monetary and financial institutions, of methods of conditionality and loan granting, incompatible with the demands of development and structural adjustment.

38. The Ministers recalled earlier appropriate decisions of the Non-Aligned Movement with regard to land-locked developing countries and recommended that an assessment of implementation of these decisions be made through appropriate international agencies including UNCTAD before UNCTAD VII in order to ensure their right of free access to and from the sea and freedom of transit, as provided for in article 125 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and in order to provide for necessary international assistance to meet their special needs. They further recognised that the right of access to and from the sea and freedom of transit should be realized in compliance with sub-articles 2 and 3 of article 125 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea so that any programme of action in respect of such transit facilities should be undertaken in consultation with, and with the approval of, the transit country concerned.

39. The Ministers recognised the particular problems faced by island developing countries, including those in the Caribbean region. They noted that such problems were serious obstacles to the efforts of the small island developing countries to effect the structural transformation necessary to achieve self-sustaining growth. Bearing in mind the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy

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for the Third United Nations Development Decade, the Ministers stressed the need *for* the competent organs of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Programme and other financial institutions, to respond urgently to the specific needs of island developing countries at the national, regional and interregional levels.

40. The Ministers reviewed with satisfaction the role played by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of the Action Programme for Economic Co-operation among Non-Aligned and other developing countries. They called on all members of the Movement to participate actively in the Ministerial Conference on South-South Co-operation scheduled to take place in Pyongyang from 9 to 13 June 1987. The Ministers viewed favourably the participation of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the Caracas Programme of Action, and noted that the 5th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee on Follow-Up and Co-ordination would meet in the region, in Havana, from 7 to 12 September 1987.

41. The Ministers regarded as positive the regional and sub-regional efforts being made to promote and strengthen co-operation and integration in the programmes of integration in Latin America and the Caribbean, and recognised their enormous potential to contribute to overcoming the present economic crisis and reactivating the region's economic and social development processes. In that respect, they underlined the important role to be played by ALADI,

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**CARICOM, the Central American Common Market and the Andean Pact in achieving the integration of the countries of the region. They further highlighted, in a broader context, the invaluable contribution of SELA as the region's own forum for consultations, co-ordination and co-operation in Latin America and the Caribbean, and recognised SELA's growing political importance,**

42. The Ministers, aware of the need to overcome social backwardness and injustice in Latin America and the Caribbean, proposed the need for their Governments' co-operation in direct action against absolute poverty by means of a unified strategy, which would grant priority to programmes that benefit the less fortunate sectors of their countries' populations. In this respect, they adhered to the initiative of the Colombian Government to *hold a meeting to promote Joint action for the eradication of absolute poverty, with the participation of international financing organisations and institutions and the co-operation of the industrialised countries, in order to formulate strategies, channel resources, make credit policies more flexible and guarantee better access of the region's export products to markets, so as to overcome the marginal situation of vast sectors of the population.*

43. The Ministers welcomed the efforts being made by the Action Committee in Support of the Economic and Social Development of Central America (CADESCA) within the framework of SELA to promote the co-operation and affective solidarity of Latin American

and Caribbean States with the Central American region. They also welcomed the programmes of economic integration among Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, and urged the other countries of the region to pursue similar endeavours.

44. The Ministers reiterated their satisfaction with the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea at Montego Bay in December 1982, and the establishment of the International Sea-Bed Authority in Jamaica, and hailed these developments as major victories for the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77,

45. The Ministers reiterated their conviction that the Convention represented the new international law in the area and a significant watershed in the struggle of the Non-Aligned Countries for the establishment of the New International Economic Order in which the wealth of the sea beyond national jurisdiction was considered the common heritage of mankind.

46. The Ministers took note of the progress made during the last session by the preparatory commission of the International Sea-Bed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea towards the implementation of Resolution II and expressed the hope that it would expedite the early entry into operation of the Authority and the Tribunal.

47. The Ministers urged all States to desist from engaging in unilateral deep sea-bed mining beyond their national jurisdiction contrary to the United Nations

General Assembly Resolution 2749 (XXV), and the Convention on the Law of the Sea. They expressed the hope that the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea might complete work in a fast and appropriate manner with a view to ensuring equitable exploration and exploitation of marine resources to the benefit of all countries, without endangering the seas and oceans as a source of life, and guaranteeing the peaceful and legal settlement of all maritime conflicts.

48. They called upon all States that had not done so to ratify or accede to the Convention at the earliest possible date to allow the effective entry into force of the new legal régime. The Ministers urged the member countries of the Non-Aligned Movement and of the Group of 77 to collectively oppose the inequitable use of marine resources by certain States.

49. The Ministers stressed the need, within the framework of the Convention, for closer collaboration and co-operation among developing countries, especially those of Latin America and the Caribbean in the vital area of marine scientific research in the sea and ocean spaces.

50. The Ministers considered that the prevailing situation in Central America continued to be one of the major focal points of tension at the international level and represented a serious threat to international peace and security.

51. This situation derived primarily from the nature of the traditional power structures in several states and was the result of centuries of domination, exploitation and exclusion of the peoples of these States from the political process, and was aggravated by the intensification of interference in the internal affairs of the States of the region. It was therefore both misleading and dangerous to distort or to misrepresent the impulses for change in Central America. The Ministers reiterated that the crisis in Central America could not be attributed to, nor explained in terms of East-West ideological confrontation. Therefore, they pledged to intensify their efforts to prevent this crisis from being used in the context of East-West confrontation.

52. The Ministers noted with deep concern that since the Eighth Summit in Harare, despite the ardent desire of the peoples of the region for a peaceful, negotiated solution to the problems in Central America, manifested in the activities of the Contadora Group and the Support Group, and in the support these Groups enjoyed; and despite the repeated appeals of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and of the overwhelming majority of States of the international community, the crisis in Central America had worsened as a result of the intensification of imperialist intervention through the continuation of an increase in financial support to mercenary forces for attacking Nicaragua, and renewed threats of direct military intervention in Nicaragua aimed at overthrowing the legitimate Government of that

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country. **The support which these Groups enjoyed and the rise in the level of tension along Nicaragua's borders, also contributed to that worsening situation.**

**53. The Ministers condemned the United States Administration and its strategic ally, Israel, for their joint interventionist policies and practices in Central America. The Ministers considered that Israel's activities in this part of the world, particularly through arms supplies to certain States in that region and training mercenaries, added elements of conflicts and instability, and threatened peace and security in the region. The Ministers urged the Latin American States that transferred their Diplomatic Missions to Jerusalem in violation of United Nations Resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolution 478 (1980), to put an end to this situation.**

**54. The Ministers noted with grave concern the role being played by Israel in the region. Israel had created an advanced electronic "security belt" around Nicaragua, similar to that installed around Palestine and the Arab territories occupied since 1967, which it used for basing, supplying and facilitating the activities of the so-called "contras". In addition, Israel had established in Central America a sophisticated surveillance system, to monitor political developments in the region with the aim of undermining the democratic processes.**

**55. The Ministers strongly condemned the escalation of aggression against Nicaragua, including the violation of its air space and territorial waters; the holding of**

military **manoeuvres**, **the purpose of** which **was** to intimidate Nicaragua; threats *of* seizure and occupation, and selective bombing of Nicaraguan territory, the use *of* neighbouring countries as **bases** for **aggression** and the **training of** mercenary groups; **acts** of sabotage; air and naval attacks; the mining of the country's main **ports**, and the imposition of punitive economic measures, including a trade embargo. Such illegal practices have caused the deaths of thousands of **Nicaraguans**; resulted in heavy economic losses, and hindered Nicaragua's development.

56. The Ministers reaffirmed that these acts of aggression, along with the acts *of* political and economic pressure, constituted flagrant violations of Nicaragua's independence, sovereignty and **territorial integrity** and of the Charter of **the** United Nations and the **principles** and norms of international law. They increased the risk of armed confrontation over a wider area even as they hampered the effectiveness of the process of **dialogue** which the Contadora Group was **seeking to promote** for the achievement of political negotiated solutions to the **problems of the** sub-region. In this regard, they called upon the Government of the United **States** of America to immediately **cease all** pressures and acts of aggression against Nicaragua.

57. The Ministers **reiterated** their firm solidarity with Nicaragua and appealed to all members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, as well as the **international community**, to give their support and all such assistance as Nicaragua might require in order to preserve its right of self-determination, national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

58. They stressed that Pretoria's interference in the internal affairs of the countries of Central America once more proved that régime's contempt, not only for the oppressed peoples of South Africa and occupied Namibia, but *for* the peoples of Central America as well. The Ministers strongly condemned the Pretoria racist régime for its collaboration with the United States Administration in providing logistical support and the arming of the "contras" fighting against the people of Nicaragua.

59. The Ministers urged the United States to comply with the decision of the International Court of Justice delivered on 27 June 1986, <specially the findings of the Court that the United States, by its many hostile acts against Nicaragua, violated international law; that it was under a duty immediately to cease and to refrain from all such acts; that it was under an obligation to make reparation to the Republic of Nicaragua, and that the form and amount of such reparation, failing agreement between the parties, would be settled by the Court. In this context and in conformity with United Nations General Assembly resolution 41/31, the Ministers deplored the refusal of the United States to abide by the Court's decision.

60. The Ministers reaffirmed their full support for the diplomatic efforts of the Contadora Group of Countries comprising Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela and of the Support Group composed of Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay, aimed at securing a peaceful

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and mutually acceptable solution **of the crisis** in Central America. They reiterated their conviction that the Groups represented an **authentic regional initiative** for solving the Central American problem by peaceful means and urged all States concerned to increase their efforts in order to bring to fruition the **peace** process spearheaded by the Contadora Group.

61. The Ministers called upon all States, particularly those with interests in the region, to unequivocally support the Contadora process and to desist from any action which might frustrate that process. They **also** called upon these States to take action within the framework of their domestic legislation to prevent their citizens from engaging in such actions.

62. The Ministers recalled the welcome extended by their Heads **of State or Government** meeting in Harare to the Message of Caraballeda which was issued by the Contadora Group and the Support Group on 12 January 1986, which was endorsed by the Foreign Ministers of the Central American States in January 1986 and was reaffirmed at Punta del Este, Uruguay. They also expressed support for the Message of New York delivered by the Foreign Ministers of the Contadora and Support Groups entitled "Peace is **Still Possible in Central America**", They expressed the hope that these efforts and the implementation of the simultaneous **action envisaged** in the Caraballeda Message would lead to the resumption of the process of negotiation and dialogue essential for the peaceful solution of the

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Central American crisis. They reiterated that the steps referred to must be taken simultaneously in order to strengthen the reciprocal confidence needed to secure peace, it being unacceptable to select some of them to the detriment of others, as each step was valid in itself. Consequently, none of them could be made conditional upon others since they represented a political and legal duty for each State.

63. The Ministers reiterated their deep satisfaction at the holding of the historic meeting of the five Central American Presidents in Esquipulas, Guatemala, on 25 May 1986, at which they stated that peace in Central America could result only from a democratic, pluralist and participatory process involving promotion of social justice, respect for human rights, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and the right of all nations to choose, freely and without external interference of any kind, their own economic, political and social system, it being understood that this choice would be the result of the freely expressed will of the peoples,

64. The Ministers likewise supported the decision adopted at the meeting of Central American Presidents, held in Esquipulas, Guatemala, on May 25, 1986, to establish the Central American Parliament, freely elected by direct universal vote, in which the principle of participatory political pluralism was respected.

**65.** The Ministers especially welcomed the forthcoming summit meeting of Central American Presidents to be held in Esquipulas, Guatemala.

**66.** The Ministers also welcomed the formation in Rio de Janeiro in December 1986, of a permanent mechanism of political consultation and co-ordination formed by the Foreign Ministers of eight countries: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. They expressed the hope that the creation of this mechanism would provide fresh impetus to their Governments' collective desire to secure a negotiated and lasting peace in the Central American region.

**67.** The Ministers expressed support for the decision taken in Rio da Janeiro in December, 1986, by the Foreign Ministers of the Contadora and Support Groups to mobilise economic and technical resources for the Central American region with the participation of the entire international community, and to ask all parties directly or indirectly involved in the conflict to refrain from the use of force to help avoid the escalation of war and to resume the negotiating process as the only way to ensure a lasting solution to all the problems of the region.

**68.** The Ministers took note of the report by the Secretary General of 12 February 1987 (A/42/127) on the participation of

the Secretary General of the OAS and himself in a visit to the five Central American countries, The Ministers welcomed with satisfaction the joint offer of services extended on 18 November 1986 by the two Secretaries General to the Central American States and the eight countries of the Contadora Group and the Support Group. They noted that that offer was designed to bring to the attention of the States concerned the resources available through the UN and OAS to promote, or where appropriate, to complement the Contadora peace initiatives.

69. The Ministers pointed out that the historic visit to Central America by the Foreign Ministers of the Contadora and Support Groups accompanied by the Secretaries General of the United Nations and of the Organisation of American States, reaffirmed the strong support of Latin America and the international community for a peaceful and negotiated solution to the Central American conflict.

70. They welcomed the continuation of the positive political and economic dialogue during the third Conference between the European Economic Community, the Central American countries and countries, members of the Contadora Group, held on 9 and 10 February 1987 in Guatemala.

71. The Ministers likewise urged all peace-loving countries and forces in the world to intensify their support for a negotiated settlement of the Central American conflict.

72. The Ministers noted with appreciation the role of the informal Group of Friends of the Chairman of the Co-ordinating Bureau and invited the Group to make an intensified effort to identify initiatives that could maximise international support for the efforts of the Contadora Group towards a peaceful negotiated settlement.

73. The Ministers renewed their appeal to all Governments and political forces in the region to seek to resume the process of dialogue and negotiation, observing scrupulously the principles of non-aggression and acting within the framework of the Contadora Act in accordance with international law until a just, durable and peaceful settlement of the conflict was achieved.

74. The Ministers rejected the military escalation and all policies aimed at seeking a so-called solution to the Central American conflict through the threat or use of force. In this context, they deplored the fact that the United States of America was still preventing the adoption of a negotiated political solution. They called on that country to help in establishing the climate of confidence that was needed in order to achieve a just and lasting solution to the conflict affecting the region, and to respect the principles of international law so as to avoid increasing tensions and thus help to create conditions for peace.

75. The Ministers commended the Government of Nicaragua for its continuing commitment to, support for, and active co-operation with the Contadora process; and



for the constructive steps it had taken in the interest of a peaceful settlement.

76. They appealed to all parties concerned to facilitate the establishment of an atmosphere of mutual trust needed for achieving a just and lasting settlement of the crisis in the region, based on ensuring the security of all States and respect for their sovereignty, national Independence and self-determination.

77. They were of the view that the dismantling of foreign military bases, the withdrawal of foreign military advisers, the halting of military manoeuvres and scrupulous adherence to the principle of non-use or threat of use of force in the relations between States would substantially reduce tension and contribute to the search for a political and negotiated solution to the problems of Central America.

78. In this context, the Ministers expressed their concern over the ongoing military manoeuvres aimed at intimidating Nicaragua and urged the Honduran Government to give a favourable response to the proposals made by Nicaragua for establishing an effective mechanism for prevention of border incidents and for strengthening mutual confidence.

79. The Ministers renewed their appeal to the Administration of the United States to resume negotiations with the Government of Nicaragua with a view to normalising bilateral relations and to securing a peaceful solution to the crisis in the region.

80. The Ministers reiterated their profound concern at the continued deterioration of the situation in El Salvador due to the growing foreign intervention and interference that had intensified the armed conflict throughout the country and worsened the economic, political and social problems.

81. The Ministers expressed deep regret that despite two preparatory meetings held in August and September of last year, the dialogue initiated in October 1984 between the Government of El Salvador and the Farabundo Martí Liberation Front-Democratic Revolutionary Front (FMLN/FDR) continued to be interrupted and called for an early resumption of this dialogue in a result-oriented manner. They noted that the Fronts had presented a peace proposal for a negotiated political solution which was in conformity with the fundamental principles of non-alignment. In this regard and in conformity with what was agreed by the Heads of State at the Harare Summit, they recalled the request, formulated by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/139, "as agreed in the meeting of La Palma, to establish as soon as possible appropriate mechanisms to study the plans and proposals submitted by both parties and to include all sectors of national life in the search for peace." Finally, they reiterated that direct negotiations offered the best prospects for a lasting, negotiated, comprehensive political solution to this crisis and urged the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN/FDR to immediately renew their talks and to continue them until they achieved the peace based on justice to which the Salvadoran people aspired.

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82. They recalled that the United Nations General Assembly, in its relevant resolutions, had reiterated its appeal to all States to abstain from intervening in El Salvador's situation and that instead of supplying weapons or contributing in any way to the prolongation and intensification of the war, they should encourage the continuation of dialogue until a just and lasting peace was achieved. They urged the Government of the United States to adopt a constructive attitude in favour of a political solution in El Salvador.

83. The Ministers expressed concern at the serious violations of human rights that continued to be committed in El Salvador. They expressed their particular concern at the harm being caused to the civilian population throughout the country by the armed conflict, particularly the attacks, bombings and forced removals that the Armed Forces were carrying out against the civilian population in the zones controlled by the insurgents. These actions, in addition to causing innumerable civilian victims, were increasing the already high number of refugees and internally displaced persons, with serious social and economic consequences for the country,

84. They considered that as long as the conflict continued, the chances for an economic recovery in El Salvador and for lasting peace and genuine development in the region were seriously jeopardised.

85. The Ministers reiterated their unconditional support for the independence and territorial integrity

of Belize and their respect for the right of Belize to determine its future as a free and sovereign nation within its land and maritime boundaries. They emphasised that any threat or use of force against Belize was unacceptable and also reiterated their commitment to the solution of disputes by negotiations and other peaceful means.

86. The Ministers expressed their total solidarity with the people and Government of Panama in their efforts to secure full compliance by the United States with the Panama Canal Treaties and the neutrality of that inter-oceanic waterway. They expressed concern over certain administrative and accounting policies and practices implemented by the United States in the management of the Panama Canal Commission which were contrary to what was agreed upon by both countries in the said Treaties, and in particular over the application of Law 96/70 of the United States Congress which was incompatible with those Treaties and violated their letter and spirit.

87. The Ministers condemned the campaign of defamation against the Republic of Panama and high-ranking authorities of that country orchestrated by ultra-conservative sectors of the United States in alliance with reactionary opposition elements, with the aim of destabilizing the country, blocking the full reversion of the Panama Canal to Panamanian property and control in 1999, neutralizing the non-aligned foreign policy of the Republic of Panama and its participation in the Contadora Group, as well as discrediting its international banking centre.

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88. The Ministers renewed their appeal to all countries to adhere to the Protocol to the Permanent Neutrality Treaty for the Panamá Canal and to respect the neutrality of that inter-oceanic waterway.

89. The Ministers observed with satisfaction the progress in the political, economic and social fields and in regional integration achieved by member Countries of the Caribbean region since the 1972 Conference of Non-Aligned Foreign Ministers was held in Georgetown, Guyana.

90. Recalling the important conclusion of the Heads of Government of CARICOM who had met in Georgetown in July 1986, they noted the determination of Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to increase co-operation at the political, economic, social and cultural levels as a means of collectively grappling with regional and international concerns and preserving their independence. They commended also the initiatives taken by the regional integration movement to promote a greater degree of interrelation with the Dutch, French and Spanish-speaking countries of the region.

91. The Ministers noted the efforts being made by the Government of Guyana to consolidate its independence and sovereignty.

92. The Ministers further noted that the territorial claim advanced by Venezuela has been referred to the United Nations Secretary General for his consideration

as to the means of settlement in conformity with the Geneva Agreement of 1966. They welcomed the recent improvement in Guyana/Venezuela relations and expressed the hope that this would lead to increased friendship and co-operation between them.

93. The Ministers expressed their deep concern at the increasing militarisation of the region, involving the building up of military bases and increasing military manoeuvres in the Caribbean basin, such as the so-called Ocean Ventures, which posed a serious danger to the Latin American and Caribbean peoples and a threat to peace and security in the region. They particularly condemned the use of colonial and imperialist powers of colonial territories as bases for military training and as springboards for acts of aggression against States in the region.

94. The Ministers condemned the transit of vessels equipped with nuclear weapons and the maintenance of military bases and troops foreign to the region in Latin America and the Caribbean, such as those existing in Guantánamo and Puerto Rico and on the Malvinas Islands. They observed with concern the intention to install new bases, such as the one planned for Easter Island, which constituted a threat to peace and security in the region.

95. The Ministers agreed to support the initiatives put forth by some countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region aimed at facilitating future agreements to limit expenditures on armaments in order to reduce

military budgets and make more resources available for economic and social development; as well as the efforts of these countries towards the adoption of regional or subregional measures to strengthen mutual trust and guarantee the security of each and every country involved.

96. The Ministers strongly condemned the escalation of threats of aggression against, and the violation of Cuba's airspace and territorial waters, especially by espionage vessels, as well as the actions undertaken with the aim of effectively blockading Cuba in the areas of international finance, credit and trade. They expressed the view that the perpetuation of these hostile actions by the United States against Cuba, was a negative factor in hemispheric relations and constituted a serious impediment to the efforts of the States and peoples of the Latin American and Caribbean region to establish relations of harmony, friendship and solidarity within their region. They reiterated the demand which the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries had consistently made for the immediate and unconditional lifting of the economic blockade against Cuba and the cessation of all other forms of pressure or threats or intimidation by the United States against this Non-Aligned country.

97. The Ministers reaffirmed the Movement's full support for Cuba and for the Cuban people's just demand that the United States return the territory illegally occupied by the Guantánamo Naval Base and pay compensation to Cuba for the considerable material losses which it was made to suffer as a result of the blockade and other similar acts of aggression.

98. The Ministers expressed their conviction that the colonial system would not be eliminated as long as cases of colonialism such as those found in the Caribbean and other areas of the continent existed. The Ministers therefore reaffirmed the need to eradicate colonialism in all its forms and manifestations in conformity with the United Nations General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and, in this regard, they reiterated their support for the Puerto Rican people's inalienable right to self-determination and independence in accordance with the above resolution and taking full account of the resolution adopted in August 1986 by the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization.

99. The Ministers reaffirmed that Puerto Rico was an integral part of Latin America and the Caribbean by reason of its historical, cultural and geographic ties.

100. The Ministers expressed concern at reports pertaining to the imprisonment of Puerto Rican patriots in the United States and urged that country to respect the civil rights of all Puerto Rican patriots.

101. The Ministers expressed their solidarity with, and full support for, the people of Haiti in relation to their struggle for the full restoration of civil liberties and human, political and economic rights in that country. They expressed their respect for the self-determination of the Haitian people and their concern at, and strong condemnation of, all manifestations of interference in the internal affairs of



Haiti which might impede the free exercise by the **people** of their right to choose their political and **economic** system. In this regard, **they** expressed support for the struggle of the Haitian people for the full realisation of their human rights **and** the liquidation of the vestiges of **Duvalierism**.

102. The Ministers reaffirmed their solidarity with the people of Grenada and exhorted all States to respect their right to independence and sovereignty and to determine freely their political, economic and social systems. In this connection they recalled United Nations General Assembly Resolution **38/7** and called for its full implementation.

**103.** The Ministers reiterated their support for, and solidarity with, the people and government of the Republic of Suriname in **their** efforts aimed at preserving their independence **and** sovereignty. They **welcomed** the latest developments in Suriname with **regard** to the process of **democratization through** national dialogue which resulted in the formation of an **Interim Government based** on the widest representation ever achieved in the country's history. They welcomed the announcement of general elections, to be held before the end of March 1988, after approval of the draft Constitution by **a** plebiscite,

**104.** **The** Ministers noted that foreign **interventionist** circles aided by foreign mercenaries and local criminal elements were disrupting Suriname's economy by destroying production centres vital for **economic** life. **They**

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also noted that mercenary activities had taken place in the eastern border area with the intention to overthrow the legitimate Government of Suriname, resulting in the displacement of thousands and in the loss of life of both civilians and soldiers. They condemned these acts and appealed to the Governments concerned to take all steps to prevent their territory being used for the activities of terrorists, as this fomented unrest in the region and hampered development, stability and peace. The Ministers expressed their deep concern at continuing attempts and the measures taken by certain Governments to exert pressure, which adversely affected the political, economic and social development of Suriname. The Ministers urged those Governments to end those measures and expressed the hope that the Governments concerned would engage in a frank, fair and meaningful dialogue with the Government of Suriname without coercion or any other form of interference in order to arrive at a solution on the basis of mutual respect and in the interest and well-being of the people of Suriname.

105. Recalling the many initiatives which the countries of the region had taken in pursuit of peace and to consolidate their independence and development, and recalling also previous decisions and manifestations of the Movement in this regard, the Ministers expressed support for the efforts to declare the Caribbean as a zone of peace,

106. They also took note with satisfaction of the initiatives on the declaration of the South Atlantic as

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a **zone of peace** resulting in the adoption by the forty-five session of the United Nations General Assembly **resolution 41/11**. They also urged further action in pursuance of the objective of the resolution.

107. Recalling the United Nations General Assembly **resolutions 1514 (XVI), 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21 and 41/40**, the Ministers reiterated their resolute support for the Republic of Argentina's right to have its sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands **restored** through negotiations.

108. The Ministers expressed the concern of the Movement for the situation created in the area of the Malvinas Islands as a result of the Declaration concerning Fisheries in the South West Atlantic issued by the British Government on 29 October 1986. They deplored the adoption of such a **measure**, which coincided with the continued refusal of the British Government to implement United Nations resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), and considered that the British position was all the more unfitting in view of repeated and constructive Argentine proposals for bilateral discussions and negotiations with an open agenda and without **preconditions**. In this context, the Ministers noted with satisfaction that on the occasion of the **effective application**, on 1 February 1987, of the above-mentioned **Declaration**, the Government of Argentina had reiterated its proposal of 17 November 1986. They pointed out that that attitude represented a new concrete contribution to the peaceful and lasting settlement of the Malvinas question.

109. The Ministers noted **with satisfaction** that the

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**Government of Argentina, given this recent provocation, had offered proposals to the Government of the United Kingdom for a new dialogue which would pave the way for global negotiations on the conflict conducted under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General,**

**110. The Ministers deplored the rejection of these proposals by the Government of the United Kingdom and called for the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom with the participation and good offices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in order to arrive at a peaceful settlement.**

**111. The Ministers also reasserted that the continuing military and naval build-up by the British in the area of the Malvinas, South Georgias and the South Sandwich Islands, created growing tension in the region and constituted an attempt to perpetuate the colonial régime in the area.**

**112. The Ministers reasserted their support for, and solidarity with, Argentina in its struggle to bring an end to the colonial presence in the Malvinas Islands and appealed to the Government of the United Kingdom to refrain from taking unilateral actions that would modify the situation while the sovereignty issue remained unresolved.**

**113. The Ministers once more reiterated their categorical support for the Republic of Bolivia's**

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**legitimate** and rightful claim to recover a direct and **useful** outlet to the Pacific Ocean, with full sovereignty. Convinced that the solution of this problem was of interest to the international community by applying the peaceful procedure set forth in the United Nations Charter and in the framework of the objectives of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Ministers took note with great interest of the auspicious opening initiated between the Governments of Bolivia and Chile, and expressed their hope that through this process the Bolivian maritime problem **would** be solved, thus expressing the spirit of Latin American brotherhood and contributing to a **better** understanding **among** the nations of the region,

114. **The** Ministers took note of the **intensification** of the struggle of the **Chilean** people to regain their basic political, civil and social rights, even in the **face** of the stepped-up repression **by** the military **régime**. They paid **tribute** to the mobilisation, the **courage** and the high **level** of unity **achieved** by the democratic forces in **Chile** and reaffirmed their support for, and solidarity with, the legitimate aspirations of the Chilean people to recover their freedom, democracy and their basic **human** rights and to re-establish the policy of **non-alignment** followed by President **Salvador Allende**. **The** Ministers **renewed** their support for the legitimate **aspirations** of **the** Chilean people to **have** their **fundamental** freedoms and basic human rights restored and called for an **intensification** of international support for the **just struggle** of the Chilean people.

115. **The** Ministers observed **that** **the** Treaty of

**Tlatelolco established** a zone in which the development, manufacture, deployment or stockpiling of nuclear **weapons** were proscribed. For the proper functioning of the Treaty, it **was imperative** that conditions be created that were conducive to the accession by all States of the **region** to the Treaty and **that** there be full **respect** for the purposes and provisions of the Treaty on the part of nuclear-weapon States to **abide** by the provisions of the **Additional Protocols** to **the** Treaty. The Ministers strongly condemned the **introduction of** nuclear **weapons** into **the** region by **any nuclear-weapon States**,

116. The Ministers viewed with grave concern the **growing** problem of **drug** abuse and the increase in illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs. **They** stressed that, apart **from** their deleterious effects on people which **jeopardized** the health of the population and community life in **every State**, drug abuse **and** illicit trafficking weakened **the** social structure of nations, represented direct and indirect economic costs to **Governments** and entailed criminal **activities** at the national and international levels which could **threaten** the stability of **States**.

117. Recalling the **communiqué** issued in Lima by **the** Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the Latin American and Caribbean countries at the close of **the** XII Regular Meeting of the Latin American Council of **SELA**, the **Ministers** stressed that, in addition to the **fight** against drug production to which the States of **the** region were all committed, resolute joint action was needed by **the countries of the hemisphere** where **large-scale illicit drug** consumption existed since this was

the basic motivation for drug **production**. In this context, the Ministers recommended that in order to affectively and comprehensively **address** the drug problem, emphasis should **be** given to the need for **solving** the causes and not **just** the symptoms of **the** drug problem.

118. The Ministers welcomed the **concerted** and **deter-**mined efforts being taken by the international community to combat the menace of drug abuse and illicit traffick-  
ing, and called upon States **that** had not done so to strengthen their anti-drug legislation. They al **so** pledged their full support to the success of the United Nations-sponsored ministerial-level International Conference on Drug Abuse and **Illicit** Trafficking to be **held** in Vienna in June 1987, and **called** for both developed and developing countries to undertake all necessary preparatory **work** in this regard,

119. The Ministers further urged the early conclusion of a Convention against **Traffic** in Narcotic and **Psycho-**tropic Substances and Related Activities. They also stressed the need to extend specific technical and economic co-operation programmes to assist those countries most affected by drug abuse and the illicit production of and **tr-ffic** in drugs. They urged the **Industrialised** countries to **increase** their financial **contribution** to those programmes through the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and to step up their efforts to reduce the demand for illicit drugs. **In particular**, the Ministers urged that adequate **attention** be paid to **the** development of effective **pro-**grammes of crop substitution to alleviate the economic **dislocations** among the rural population.

120. At the conclusion of their **deliberations**, the Ministers expressed their appreciation to **Lat** in American and Caribbean non-aligned countries for their contribution to the promotion of the Movement's principles and objectives. They further expressed their **hope** that an ever-growing **number** of **countries** in the region would **become** full members of the Movement.

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ANNEX II

Georgetown Appeal : Peace in Central America is  
essential for peace in the entire region

Significant events that have taken place in the Latin American and Caribbean regions are contributing to profound transformations within the region as a whole and its relation with the rest of the world.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, there is a reaffirmation of the need for unity to strengthen the struggle for true independence and development. Among the milestones in this process are the unanimous solidarity with the struggle of the people of Panama to attain sovereignty over its entire territory and over the Panama Canal; the wide support for the struggle waged by Argentina for over a century in order to recover the exercise of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands; the sustained action by the countries of the Contadora Group and Support Group, reflecting the will of the entire continent to achieve a Latin American solution to the crisis in Central America, and reject foreign aggression and interference; the initiatives to solve the problem of the external debt in keeping with the sovereign decisions and national interests of those countries.

The establishment of democratic Governments in Latin America and the Caribbean permits its people full exercise of human rights and the inalienable right to freely determine their own destiny. This process also contributes to the strengthening of non-alignment in the region and in the world.

The downfall of dictatorships in several countries and their inevitable collapse in still others is proof of the Latin American and Caribbean peoples' powerful democratic commitment. The overthrow of those régimes, as a result of heroic popular resistance, also reflects the failure of the economic models imposed by force and designed to perpetuate dependency and subordination to foreign interests. That is why the democratization process, which our Movement welcomes and supports, is intimately linked to the struggle for full independence and unity among all Latin American and Caribbean countries, the defence of their national sovereignty and the necessary co-ordination with other developing countries in the battle to establish the new international economic order.

The unbearable burden of the external debt, a dramatic expression of the unfair international economic order which must be transformed, hinders the economic development demanded by the peoples of the region and severely compromises their democratic stability. The external debt of the Latin American and Caribbean countries cannot be paid under existing conditions and without sustained economic development.

It is necessary to foster and strengthen economic and political co-operation and integration efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will help alleviate the enormous burden of the present crisis, facilitate the region's political and economic transformation processes and promote economic and social development.

However, **this process of economic consolidation**, democratic affirmation and regional unity requires peace and stability. **But these** are seriously **jeopardized** by the Central American conflict, **which** endangers principles and values that are fundamental for the region and for its peace and security. Therefore, we **give special attention to the situation in** Central America, which **is** one of the **most** serious focal points of tension in the world, and reiterate that this conflict must be viewed **not as the result** of an **East-West** confrontation, but rather **as** the consequence of a complex **series** of **socio-economic** problems and foreign intervention.

For the past several years, **Nicaragua** has **been the victim** of a cruel, unfair and unequal **war imposed** on it by the **most** powerful country in the world. Peace, development and democracy in **Central America must** unavoidably **take in to account** strict **respect** for peoples' self-determination and for non-interference in the internal affairs of States. In **this** context, we express our firm rejection of the threat or **use** of force, particularly **military pressure aimed at subduing the** political will of any **Central American State**, and **urge** the United States Administration to respect these principles.

The **countries** of the Contadora **Group** and the Support Group have played a vital role in the search for a political and **negotiated solution** to the Central American crisis and **must continue** their efforts. The Contadora process is **the only** viable path to peace in the region and we **urge** all the **Central American countries** to **act within the framework of** this process.

Upon concluding its meeting in Georgetown, the Co-ordinating **Bureau** of the Non-Aligned Countries launches an appeal **to** all States, international organizations and world public opinion to strengthen and expand their solidarity with the Governments and **peoples** of Latin America and the Caribbean in their **efforts to achieve** peace in Central America, **consolidate** nations' independence and democracy, promote economic development and integration and **be** masters of their own destinies.

To this end, the Co-ordinating Bureau decided to **undertake** the following actions;

1. To **constitute** a standing **committee comprising** the following countries: **Zimbabwe**, (as Chairman of the Movement) **Algeria, Congo, Ghana, Guyana, India, Panama, Peru and Yugoslavia** to carry out, among others, the following **tasks**:
  - (a) To meet with the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations and the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States in order to **convey to them the Movement's concern** over the serious **crisis** in Central America and to **urge them to continue their efforts** towards a peaceful solution to the **conflict**;
  - (b) To convey **to the United States authorities** the **serious concern** of the Movement over the situation in Central America and to **urge** them to contribute to the **creation of conditions needed for achieving a peaceful solution** to the Central American conflict, based on full

respect *for* international law and in conformity with the proposals put forth by the Contadora Group and the Support Group)

- (c) To convey to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the member countries of the European Economic Community and the President of said organization the serious concern of the Movement over the situation in Central America and to urge them to intensify the measures needed to achieve peace in Central America and to make an effective contribution to the region's economic and social development. }
- (d) To personally convey to the Contadora Group and the Support Group the Movement's full support for their actions in favour of peace in Central America, and to express the Non-Aligned Countries' willingness to render any co-operation needed for their noble endeavours.
- (e) To visit Nicaragua with the purpose of expressing the solidarity of the Movement with that country.

2. To request Zimbabwe, as Chairman of the Movement, to undertake the following actions:

- (a) To request the member States to give the Georgetown Peace Appeal the broadest possible dissemination;
- (b) To transmit the Georgetown Appeal to all regional and international organizations and request them to give it the broadest possible dissemination;
- (c) To take the necessary measures so that all the news agencies that form part of the Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool give the broadest possible coverage to the Georgetown Peace Appeal.

3. To request the Chairman of the Movement to send a special message to the leaders of the industrialized countries that form the Group of Seven about the economic crisis and the problems of the foreign debt of developing countries, highlighting the particular problems that Latin America and the Caribbean face.

ANNEX III

Address delivered on 10 March 1987 by the President of Guyana to  
the Special Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of  
the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries

Cde. Chairman, distinguished Ministers, **distinguished** delegates and guests,  
Comrades:

It is a **special** pleasure for me to welcome you, with warmth and **sincerity**, to **Guyana** and more particularly to our capital city, Georgetown.

The Government and the people of **Guyana** have been deeply touched by the confidence you have reposed in us to be **host** to this **Special Meeting** of the **Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement**. It is an honour which we accept with **humility**; and, in **response**, I place at your disposal the facilities of the Government and people of **Guyana**. Modest though they be, I **trust that** they will **nevertheless** play a part in **making** your visit pleasant and memorable and **your Meeting** rewarding and **successful**.

I ask you in all sincerity to forgive our **shortcomings**. And I do so in the strong belief **that** we **are** all united in the view that the **cause** for which this Meeting has **been** convened should not **be** held hostage to **material conditions**.

The Meeting which we **are** now **inaugurating** is about **peace**, independence and security) it is about the inviolability of the **sovereignty of States**; it is about respect for all peoples and their **inalienable** right to live free from fear, from intimidation and from aggression. **The** pursuit of these objectives has **been** the **historic** struggle of the non-aligned Movement.

As we **remobilize** our forces to intensify that struggle in respect of **Latin America** and the **Caribbean**, let us remember and pay homage to its casualties **elsewhere**. I refer in **particular** to the late president Samora **Moises** Machel of Mozambique. This being the **first** high-level **non-aligned consultation** since **President Machel** was killed, it is **altogether** appropriate that we should do so.

Samora Machel personified the **struggle against apartheid** which he waged with an intensity and zeal worthy of the **highest praise**. We all do remember the **dynamism and excellence** of his **contribution** to the **success** of the recent **non-aligned Summit in Harare**, especially in relation to southern Africa. It was just a **few** short weeks **after** that event that, his life was snuffed out, even as he journeyed in our **cause**. **May** his **passion**, his **selflessness**, his **dedication**, serve to inspire us all as we **pursue**, in respect of **Latin America and the Caribbean**, the **struggle** against what is essentially the same enemy **everywhere**: in justice and underdevelopment.

Nearly 15 years ago, it **was** **Guyana's** **distinction and privilege** to host the **first Ministerial Conference** of our Movement to be held in **Latin America and the Caribbean**. That historic Conference underscored, in a dramatic way, the deep

relevance of the principles and ideals of our Movement to the legitimate struggles of the peoples of this region for dignity, self-respect and the right to peace and equitable development free from external pressures and interference.

In considering the development of the Movement in relation to this region, it is appropriate to recall here that at the Belgrade Summit in 1961, Cuba was the only country of Latin America and the Caribbean that enjoyed the status of being a full member. Unfortunately, that unique position was to be soon followed by its exclusion from participating in the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the application to it of a mistaken and unfruitful policy which to an important extent persists up to today. Nevertheless, acting on principles which are at the core of our Movement, the then independent countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean - Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago - in 1972 took the forward step of establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba, thus setting in train the process of ending her isolation within the region.

Since that time, several Meetings and Conferences of our Movement have been held in this region at various levels, each in its own way emphasizing some dimension of our common interests. More significantly, these meetings have served to heighten international recognition of the role that Latin America and the Caribbean plays in strengthening our Movement, extending its influence and increasing its effectiveness. But no less important has been the contribution which non-alignment has in turn made to developments in the region.

In the result, the reality today is a much altered Latin America and the Caribbean. The region is now more alert to the lessons of its past history of dependence created through decades of being subjected to the will of others. We are today a group of States fully prepared to respond to the challenges of our times. We are committed to safeguarding our independence and sovereignty. And we are building and consolidating authentic regional institutions which take into account our common conditions of underdevelopment and our common experience of imperialism from which they derive. This Special Meeting, therefore, provides an exceptional opportunity for our Movement to bring its influence to bear on the unfolding situation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the course of the quarter of a century which has gone since the Belgrade Summit, the non-aligned Movement has evolved as a weighty factor in the cause of peace and development and a potent force for constructive change in international relations. It has been in the vanguard of the struggle against imperialism and colonialism wherever and in whatever guises they manifest themselves. It has waged unrelenting war against apartheid and racism; and it has unequivocally opposed all forms of aggression, occupation, domination and interference. The Movement has been Unremitting in its vigorous advocacy of disarmament, especially in respect of nuclear arsenals; peaceful coexistence; the economic development of developing countries; and a new world order based on principles of equity and democracy.

Cde. Chairman, it is good to recall this record; for this Special Meeting, convened to focus attention on current economic and political events, in Latin America and the Caribbean, is taking place against the backdrop of persistent crises in our international relations. These involve an unabated conflict between

different social systems and a deliberate retreat by some from the principle of multilateralism. Just a few months ago at the Harare Summit, we reaffirmed our commitment to fight against these negative trends; to work assiduously to strengthen peace, detente and collective security; and to promote the democratization of international relations.

Regretfully, the events in Latin America and the Caribbean today confirm only too well the concerns which motivated the convening of this Meeting. The threats to peace and security are real - and they are great. This is especially true in respect of Nicaragua, a member State of our Movement. It is therefore both timely and necessary that we make a thorough analysis of the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean. We need, in particular, to evaluate the danger facing the Central American subregion, and see in what way we can influence a resolution of the problems there on the basis of the peaceful ideals of our Movement.

Naturally, the principles and values that our Movement is seeking to sustain and to have respected in relation to Latin America and the Caribbean cannot be more effective than the States of the region are themselves prepared to allow. The foremost challenge, therefore, is for us to demonstrate to the rest of the world the extent of our own commitment to these values and principles. It is essential that we show ourselves to be the collective guardians and principal defenders both of our separate independence and of our common interests.

But, of course, we must also give due recognition to the realities of historical relationships and of current imperatives. There is a mutuality of interests between States of our region and those outside, as manifested by existing cultural links, trading arrangements and continuing projects of co-operation. This is as it should be. Seen in this light, the interest which the European Economic Community, for example, is showing in the development and other needs of the region is at once legitimate, healthy and beneficial. Indeed, there should be nothing to prevent any State, whether within the hemisphere or outside of it, from having a proper interest in developments in the Latin American and Caribbean region, including the Central American subregion.

The pursuit of legitimate interests is not, however, a rubric capable of sheltering all actions taken in that name. No interest is legitimate unless pursued within the framework of international law. As a consequence, we must be forever vigilant against attempts to place limitations upon or subvert our independence. We must be constantly alert against stratagems to manipulate us or exploit misunderstandings among ourselves. It is for us - and no one else - to resolve such misunderstandings. My plea here today is for a strong and united region of Latin America and the Caribbean, a region in which we combine our intellectual and material resources for our common benefit; in which we consider as paramount the interests of the States which comprise it; and in which we assert a will and determination to defend our independence and sovereignty and to say "no" to any attempt to circumscribe our freedom of decision and action.

Cde. Chairman, there are some important developments that have been exerting a profound influence on perceptions and political attitudes in Latin America and the Caribbean today. Among them has been the emergence of a growing consensus *that* not

only should regional solutions be found for regional problems, but that outside forces should respect and co-operate with all efforts to this end. A little over 10 years ago, for example, the Latin American Economic System (SELA) was formed to meet the economic challenges facing the region. Today, there is almost universal recognition that SELA's role must embrace both the economic and the political dimension. In an address before the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the Latin American Council of SELA, President Alan Garcia Pérez of Peru stated:

It is only through integration that our markets will expand and our political strength gain respect for our peoples and our production. It is only through integration that we will be able to speak of democracy and justice.

President Garcia was making the case for promoting the evolution of the region at the political level as a practical response to global realities. In a fundamental way, he was recognising the maturity of the region; its confidence in the assertion of its right to dignity and self-respect; and its ability to meet, by its own efforts, the challenges of the times. The Contadora process highlights this development. So, too, do the initiatives taken by the leaders of the Caribbean Community and Common Market and the continuing efforts within the region to consolidate the democratic process.

Cde. Chairman, distinguished Ministers, delegates, guests, comrades, to a great extent, however, the task of consolidating the democratic process in Our region is linked to and dependent on the state of the global economy. But regrettably, the so-called recovery process in the global economy has been spasmodic and so far offers little hope for the world at large. Such progress as has been achieved has been both discontinuous in its course and unpredictable in its development. The truth, which some industrialized countries refuse to acknowledge, is that the world economy is afflicted by a crisis which is structural in nature. This is why the difficulties being experienced by the economies of developing countries exhibit by and large similar characteristics. It is for this reason, also, that remedial action, currently being taken by so many of us at the national level is proving to be so traumatic in the absence of appropriate reforms to the global system.

The Latin American and Caribbean region as a whole is suffering its worst economic crisis since the Second World War. It is the most heavily indebted region in the world: debt-service payments alone consume more than one third of our region's foreign exchange earnings. It is extremely difficult for us to finance the developmental programmes to effect the structural adjustments which are required to arrest the continuing slide towards irreversible poverty. Our regional economies are also buffeted by declining terms of trade and growing protectionist barriers - to which difficulties can be added flight of capital and high rates of interest.

The particular issue of protectionism is a matter of concern to us all. The recent reduction in the United States sugar quota for Latin America and the Caribbean is the latest example of this phenomenon. Our region needs to increase exports, but simply cannot do so if measures are taken to reduce our access to markets, especially traditional ones. It is only by expanding exports that we can

obtain the inputs required for **increasing our production, enhancing our earnings** and consequentially **enlarging our capacity to service our debt.**

The problem of foreign **debt is critical in the region, in the developing countries and in the world** as a whole. Our **Movement** has a clear **responsibility to take initiatives** for promoting practical **strategies** that will help in **resolving** this seemingly intractable problem and, **at the same time, in maintaining the flow** of new financing for developmental purposes.

**This problem is not only a financial one but a political one as well, and ought to be so treated.** For **what is at stake is not only the foreign creditors' accounts but - and this surely is of even greater moment - the lives of millions of men, women and children** who live under the constant threat **of economic rigours that are productive of unemployment, hunger, destitution and distress.** The fundamental **rights of human beings enshrined in the United Nations Charter** will remain mere words in **so far as most debtor countries are concerned, unless a realistic answer to the question of debt is found as a matter of urgency.** In the search for such a **solution, our Movement has a self-interest in joining with the rest of the world community.**

The problems of trade, money and finance, **debt and development are not peculiar to Latin America and the Caribbean.** The non-aligned movement has always **emphasized the direct relationship between money, trade, debt and development, on the one hand, and stability in the international monetary and financial system, on the other.** However, the **manifestations of those problems are, perhaps, quantitatively greater - and thus more acute - in this region.** The need is therefore **pressing for us to help devise mechanisms to deal with the serious economic situation which faces us all.**

It is clear that **solutions cannot be found in a vacuum nor sought with a narrow vision.** Recognizing this, the **developing countries have long advocated a collective, multilateral response to the problem of resolving global economic issues but so far without success.** Unfortunately, some countries have opposed a **universalist approach to the persistent problems of the global economy, except where such an approach happens to suit them.** Thus, on the one hand, countries have **been recently insisting on addressing a new round of trade talks within the framework of the GATT.** On the other hand, they have **been attempting to deal with monetary and financial questions through talks among a few major States and within the Committee of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.** They appear **at last to have recognized the problems and their urgency; but their responses are selective and limited.** Yet, it is undeniable that the **global economic problems call for a comprehensive interrelated solution.** It should therefore be a prime objective of **this Meeting to identify ways and means of overcoming all obstacles to coherent negotiations on these issues.**

The North-South **dialogue, within the ambit of which those negotiations could clearly be best pursued, is still not acceptable to the major economic powers as an appropriate mechanism.** Meanwhile, the non-aligned and other developing countries run a **real risk of having equitable solutions eschewed and partial ones imposed to the detriment of their real needs and vital interests.** It is therefore incumbent



upon us as a region, as a Movement and as developing countries, to ensure that we regain the initiative to activate a balanced process of negotiation. We must formulate strategies that are constructive, realistic and collective in nature.

Hut, even as we pursue this agreed course, urgent work is necessary to give more practical effect to the principle of South-South co-operation which was so clearly re-emphasized as recently as last year at the Harare Summit. Within this region, we have been developing several programmes of co-operation. This trend is encouraging for it serves to strengthen and give substance and meaning to the concept. As we stride to restructure international relations and also to strengthen our position in negotiating for democratic and equitable economic arrangements in the international system, collective self-reliance must reinforce and underpin our efforts.

In this context, the interregional Lima consultations on debt experiences constituted a welcome initiative and provided us with a worthwhile example of collective endeavour. The Lima meeting represents the type of action which strengthens South-South solidarity and also gives a new impulse to the process of developing a co-operative approach with respect to important international issues. This Meeting in Georgetown should, I suggest, encourage the further development of this practical process of consultation.

Cde. Chairman, distinguished Ministers, delegates, guests, comrades, we are sufficiently mature not to be deceived by mere asseverations of benevolent concern where what is at work is a strategy to impose or maintain an external influence in the affairs of our region. Our economic and political weaknesses continue to provide opportunities for us to be exploited. Moral and ethical principles hardly operate as a brake on ambitions of hegemony. There are all too many transparent attempts to obscure the real reasons for the crisis in Central America: these should no longer deceive anyone. For, at issue is the continuing manipulation by forces outside of the region of differences among the Central American countries as well as the consequential danger which this poses to regional peace and security and to the sovereign rights and territorial integrity of these States.

It is worth reiterating here that the real problem in Central America derives from centuries of neglect and poverty. It is neither about spheres of influence nor about ideological paramountcy. The struggle is against inequality and in justice. The solutions are to be found through dialogue and negotiation and not through the use of military force, whether directly or by proxies.

The Contadora process remains the authentic regional initiative for resolving the Central American crisis by peaceful means. I am confident that this Meeting will be working to ensure the removal of all hindrances towards its operation and will endorse the work of the Contadora Group and the Lima Support Group. Nor, I believe, would the Meeting neglect to explore all possibilities of enhancing the effectiveness of the process.

May I suggest that you also lend support to other initiatives which have as their objective the establishment of peaceful and harmonious relations among the states and peoples of Central America. Your deliberations and your recommendations

should serve to encourage and stimulate renewed **dialogue** and negotiation; for these, in the final analysis, are the only effective instruments for achieving **political** accommodation and creating a **régime** of lasting peace in Central America. Such peace will **enhance** the prospects for accelerating the social and economic development of the subregion and contribute to the security **of** the peoples of the region as a whole.

Peace in Central America is essential to the security of the whole region. But equally **so is the need to ensure that the Caribbean becomes a zone of peace**. There is every good reason why we in Latin **America** and the **Caribbean** should have a vested interest in collaborating with the non-aligned Movement to protect the entire region from the scourge of war.

More generally, there is a growing apprehension **about the** introduction of nuclear weapons into Latin America and the Caribbean, either by the transit of **vessels** equipped with nuclear weapons or through military **bases** stationed on the soil of our region, whether legally or illegally. We must insist that all extra-regional **States** respect the Treaty of **Tlatelolco which establishes** Latin America **and the Caribbean as a** nuclear-free zone, and urge all nuclear **States** to conform to the provisions of the **Additional** Protocols to the Treaty. Similarly, for it to be **truly** effective, the Treaty must be universal in its **operation**. There is need, therefore, to put in train those arrangements that would permit its application to all the States of the region.

There is another aspect of regional security **which must be** of **special** concern to all of **us**: it **is** the problem of illicit drugs - their production, **transport**, **dis**tribution and consumption. For **many States** and peoples, the increase in the incidence of drug **abuse is not unrelated to** social and economic conditions. The nature and extent of the **drug** problem should encourage **co-operation** on this matter **among the countr**ies **of** our region and our Movement. The **drug** traffic has social, economic and even political implications which we should address in a coherent and **comprehens**ive way.

**Cde. Chairman**, distinguished Ministers, delegates, **guests**, comrades, I have sought to illustrate some of the more prominent developments and issues in Latin America and the Caribbean and call **attention to the continuing** internal, hemispheric and extra-con **t inen**tal **threats** to the peace and security of the region.

Historically, our concept of security has been **influenced** by the existence of **such** threats) and naturally enough, we have tended to fashion **our defence** mechanisms in the **ligh**t of this perception. **But** I ask the question whether the time has not come for a conceptual change - whether it is **not** more **appropriate** today that security should be **also** seen as residing in freedom from **want**; in conditions of improved social and **ec**onomic benefits) in regional solidarity; and in reasoned dialogue and negotiation. **If this** is true, as I believe it to be, I would **urge** that we translate this **adjusted perception into** positive and **concrete** action.

Let us now therefore cease pitting our arms and our strength **against** one another. Let us **through** calm, logical and clear-headed analysis, approach the present realities (including any issues dividing us) and seek **solutions** to

reinforce our collective vision of a strong and unified region. It is this spirit that must inspire and guide the search for answers to the region's problems, many of which you will be addressing during this Meeting. Thus strengthened, we would be better able to protect the region against unfriendly interusions from outside.

In this context, then, I believe that your Meeting would wish to reiterate support for the Government and people of Cuba and the Government and people of Nicaragua and for their right to choose their own social order, to pursue their own path to development, and to preserve their independence and sovereignty free from interference. The reduction of tension and the enjoyment by the people of Cuba, El Salvador, Nicaragua and the rest of Central America of their absolute right to peaceful development can best be facilitated by genuine dialogue among those concerned. We must call for a recommencement and intensification of such dialogue with a view to achieving an honourable and durable negotiated settlement within a reasonable time frame.

It is inevitable, also, that your Meeting will be considering the situation relating to the Falkland/Malvinas Islands. On this issue, may I urge you to continue to encourage and promote a resumption of dialogue and negotiations between the United Kingdom and Argentina so that a satisfactory and honourable solution may be reached at an early date.

We must, too, maintain our principled position of support for the right of the people of Belize to determine their future as a free, sovereign and independent nation, and the right to have the territorial integrity of their country respected.

There is one other matter which continues to be a cause of deep concern, and that is the persistence of the colonial presence in our midst. Not only is this an anomalous situation, but it is also the source of many unnecessary tensions in the region. It must be our objective to work for the elimination of the last vestiges of this anachronism.

Cde. Chairman, distinguished Ministers, delegates, guests, comrades, Guyana thanks you for your presence. That you are here in Georgetown in such large and representative numbers is the strongest testimony of your genuine concern for the safety, well-being and progress of the region of Latin America and the Caribbean - and, indeed, of this planet on which we live. But you are here not merely because you are concerned, but also because you want to do something constructive - and you believe, rightly, that within the framework of the non-aligned Movement you can.

Cde. Chairman, distinguished Ministers, delegates, guests, comrades, the objective of our consultations here in Georgetown should be to shape practical solutions to the political and economic problems that we face, with particular emphasis on the situation in Central America, the debt problem and the overall issue of peace. As we seek to carry out these important tasks, it is right and fitting that we be dispassionate and sober in our assessments, and that we be realistic in recognizing the constraints defining the limits of the possible. Success will not be easy, and we will have to be resolute, patient and self-sacrificing in order to attain it.

It does appear, sometimes, as if the problems confronting us become more complex, more intractable and more difficult of resolution with each passing day. But we know that these problems are the result of human action or inaction and do not inhere as a matter of course in the natural order of things. Our Movement represents the stubborn faith of the overwhelming majority of mankind that the human condition can be improved and that this planet on which we live can, through human endeavour, become a just, peaceful and habitable place.

As you proceed with your deliberations, you should not ignore the fact that there are some who have been challenging the credibility of our Movement, its validity in a dynamic world and its capacity for effective action. It must be one of the prime objectives of this Meeting to demonstrate beyond a doubt that our Movement remains credible, valid and effective.

We of the Movement, must therefore not allow our thoughts, our language and our responses to issues to become ossified, for we operate in a political context that is always changing. The tactics and approaches of yesterday can become irrelevant and even counter-productive tomorrow. YOU should accordingly approach the items on your agenda with flexible minds. It must never appear that you failed to think through the issues and have merely resorted to repeating the formulas Of the past.

Within recent times, for example, there have undoubtedly been some very interesting - perhaps even intriguing - developments inside and outside our region, which certainly have enormous possibilities for resolving, or at least considerably reducing, the tensions in Central America. You must take them into account in your deliberations and decisions. Your duty then, may I suggest, is to nurture, facilitate and help carry forward these developments with discernment and sensitivity.

One of the criticisms persistently levelled at us is that the declarations emanating from our meetings tend to be too lengthy and complicated; that they are couched in formulistic language that obscures rather than illuminates the forward-looking nature of our great Movement; and that they give the impression not only that we have lost our way in a forest of words, but that we are wont to confound rhetoric with substance. Consequently, some have argued that the thrust and point of our declarations are weakened and sometimes not properly grasped by the public at large.

If this in fact is a perception which some people have, we should work to change it. What we must do is to strengthen our position by endeavouring within reason to remove possible grounds for plausible criticism being however always faithful to our principles and policies.

We must work to ensure that the positions we adopt command great respect and the widest support in the international community and those positions must be firmly rooted in the principles on which our Movement is based and which inform our decisions. To this end, may I therefore, if you will permit me, propose that this Meeting in its final declaration restrain an excess of words and clarify the larger principles which have influenced our conclusions.

The nature of breaches to **those principles** will vary from **time to time and from region to region**) but the principles will remain **immutable**. It **is** our **adherence** to principles and our advocacy for their **universal acceptance and application** **that** will ensure the vitality and credibility and the **effectiveness** of our **Movement** .

Non-alignment **has** a permanent, pervasive and constructive role to play in international affairs. This being for us an article of faith, our Movement **has in the past** always responded with vigour and perceptiveness to the challenges of the times, has always **shown** itself capable of constructive action **in the cause of humanity**. **We can never accept that there is no** solution to any problem that diminishes **the** personality of **human beings** and **constr icts** their **opportunities** for development, happiness and freedom. That is why we are here in Georgetown. In the name of the 300 million people of Latin **America** and the Caribbean, let us **by the** earnestness of our efforts, the creativity of our **ideas** and the **practicality** of our decisions **show** ourselves equal to **the** challenges which **now** confront us.

Cde. Chairman, distinguished Ministers, delegates, **guests**, comrades it is with great personal pleasure that I declare open this Special Ministerial **Meeting** of the **Co-ordinating Bureau** of the **Movement** of Non-Aligned Countries.

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