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and 109 of the preliminary list\*

POLICIES OF **APARTHEID** OF THE GOVERNMENT OF **SOUTH AFRICA**

LAW OF THE SEA

THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL **AMERICA**: THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL  
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QUESTION OF NAMIBIA

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DEVELOPMENT AND **INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION**

**ADOPTION OF A CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

Letter dated 2 June 1989 from the **Ministère des affaires étrangères** of the  
Permanent Mission of Saint Lucia to the United Nations addressed  
to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit the  
attached copy of the **Communiqué** of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Standing Committee  
of Ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs of the Caribbean Community, held at

\* A/44/50/Rev.1.

**A/44/306**

**English**

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**Castries on 8 and 9 May 1989, with the request that it be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 26, 30, 34, 36, 39, 44, 74, 83 and 109 of the preliminary list.**

**(Signed) Charles S. FLEMING**  
**Chargé d'affaires a.i.**

ANNEX

**Communiqué of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Standing Committee of Ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs of the Caribbean Community, held at Castries on 8 and 9 May 1989**

The Standing Committee of Ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) held its Fifteenth Meeting at Castries on 8 and 9 May 1989. This was preceded by a Preparatory Meeting of Officials on 4 and 5 May 1989. The Meeting was attended by 11 of the 12 States comprising the membership of the Standing Committee. The Heads of Delegation were: Hon. Hugh Marshall, Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Antigua and Barbuda; Hon. E. Charles Carter, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Bahamas; Hon. Maurice King, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Barbados; Hon. Dean Barrow, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Belize; H.E. Mr. Franklin Baron, Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dominica and High Commissioner to the United Kingdom; Hon. Ben Jones, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs, Grenada; Cde. Rashleigh Jackson, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Guyana; Hon. David H. Coore, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica; H.E. Dr. William V. Herbert, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, St. Kitts and Nevis; Hon. E. Neville Cenac, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Saint Lucia, and Sen. the Hon. Dr. Sahadeo Basdeo, Minister of External Affairs and International Trade, Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Roderick Rainford, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, declared the Meeting open.

The Meeting was addressed by Senator the Hon. Dr. Sahadeo Basdeo, Minister of External Affairs and International Trade, Trinidad and Tobago, as outgoing Chairman of the Standing Committee. The Hon. Neville Cenac, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Saint Lucia, delivered the inaugural address.

Minister Cenac, in welcoming delegates to Saint Lucia, pointed to the importance of "these gatherings of Foreign Ministers" and noted that the Fifteenth Meeting could not have been held at a more opportune time or at a more challenging conjuncture in international affairs.

The Minister added: @\*These changes in the world require changer in our diplomacy, changes in the way we approach our international affairs. Of course, they are changes that we welcome and should seek to encourage in whatever way we can, as it is imperative for the economic development of the third world, that peace and co-operation exist in the world at large".

The Hon. E. Charles Carter, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Bahamas, replied on behalf of visiting delegations.

The Hon. Neville Cenac was elected Chairman of the Meeting and the new Chairman in Office of the Standing Committee.

### Changing international environment

The Ministers observed that the Meeting of the Standing Committee was taking place against the backdrop of a perceptible pattern of change in global interrelationships. The mosaic of change was characterised, among other factors, by shifts in the centres of economic power, including a global trend towards the formation and strengthening of large economic groupings and markets and the emergence of new trends regarding issues of universal concern such as the protection of the environment and drug abuse and trafficking.

The Ministers also noted a growing spirit of accommodation and flexibility in the approach to solutions to regional problems which, in turn, was creating a more helpful climate for enhancing the role of the United Nations and a relaxation of tension between the super-Powers.

The Ministers considered that these factors, among others, together created challenges as well as opportunities for small States, such as those of CARICOM, and resolved to intensify their co-operation in order to identify ways in which CARICOM States could best adapt to the changing situation so as to maintain and promote their interests, both individually and collectively.

With regard to the changing relations between the super-Powers, the Ministers expressed the hope that this relaxation of tension between them would be translated into additional disarmament measures thereby leading to reduced levels of tension and insecurity in the world and strengthening the chances for peace. While recognising the primary role of the super-Powers in the global disarmament effort, particularly where nuclear weapons were concerned, they nevertheless urged that these Powers make greater use of the negotiation mechanisms provided within the United Nations in keeping with the stake that all humankind has in the achievement of disarmament. They also expressed their hope that the funds liberated from such disarmament measures would be channelled into development co-operation for the benefit of developing countries.

### Central America

The Ministers noted with satisfaction that the recent tendency in international relations towards the greater use of diplomacy and negotiations in the solution of inter-State problems was becoming increasingly manifest in Central America. They called for maximum international support for, and co-operation with, the efforts of the States of Central America to find solutions to the problems of the subregion. They stressed that these solutions must be consistent with the rights of the peoples of those States to full respect for their sovereignty and independence, and to live free from external interference in their internal affairs.

### Southern Africa

The Ministers noted the developments leading up to the current decolonization process in Namibia, and commended those CARICOM States, namely, Barbados and Jamaica, which had contributed to the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) in Namibia. The Ministers hoped that the illegal occupation of Namibia by

South Africa would be brought to a swift end, and that the provisions of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) would be rapidly implemented.

They noted the current state of the struggle against apartheid within South Africa and condemned the attempts by the South African régime to achieve political change without enfranchising the majority of that country. The Ministers urged those States which had so far failed to implement comprehensive sanctions against South Africa to do so with urgency,

The Ministers reaffirmed the solidarity of the Government<sup>6</sup> and people<sup>8</sup> of the CARICOM States with the front-line States and reiterated their support for the struggles of the oppressed peoples of South Africa and Namibia.

#### The Arab/Israeli conflict

The Ministers noted with much concern the deterioration in the situation in the occupied territories, and expressed regret that the fulfilment of Palestinian national aspirations continued to be frustrated. They viewed this as underlining the centrality of the Palestinian question to the Middle East crisis and called for urgent steps to be taken for the convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East, as called for by the United Nations. They reiterated their firm belief that a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict must be achieved within the framework of a recognition of the right of Palestinians to a homeland, Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab lands and the acceptance of the right of all States in the region, including Israel, to live in peace within recognized and secure borders, in accordance with Security Council resolution 242 (1967). In that light, they considered recent statements<sup>6</sup> by the Palestine National Council to be a positive contribution to the peace process.

#### Haiti

The Ministers reaffirmed their solidarity with the Haitian people in their struggle for democracy, economic and social justice and respect for human rights and human dignity. They expressed the hope that the democratic process would be resumed with the full restoration of the agreed Constitution and the holding of free and fair elections in Haiti in the near future.

The Ministers agreed that the Community should continue the examination of its relations with Haiti with a view to devising appropriate forms of support for the Haitian people in their quest for democratic rights and social and economic justice,

#### Belize/Guatemala

The Ministers reiterated their total commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Belize.

The Ministers supported the continuing negotiations between Belize and Guatemala, but regretted that these negotiations had not yet produced a settlement of the problems. They hoped for an early agreement. They called upon Guatemala to accept without delay Belize's existence as a sovereign State and to respect the sanctity of its existing constitutional borders.

### Guyana/Venezuela

The Minirterr noted with satisfaction that the relations between Guyana and Venezuela continued to intensify through the deepening of co-ordinating, and the development of new, programmes of functional co-operation. They noted also that this intensification had manifested itself in an increase in exchanges between the two Presidents and at various other levels in the public, as well as the private sector.

They were heartened by the demonstrated intention of both Guyana and Venezuela to continue and strengthen the process of dialogue and co-operation.

With regard to the controversy between the two countries, the Minirterr welcomed the recent reaffirmation made by Guyana and Venezuela of their determination to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the mandate given to him by article IV (2) of the Geneva Agreement.

### Latin America and the Caribbean

The Minirterr acknowledged the growing recognition, on both sides, of the value of closer relations between the Caribbean and Latin America. They reaffirmed the Community's determination to work for the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Nassau Understanding through practical, mutually beneficial programmes of co-operation.

In this regard, Ministers emphasised the need for a strong, effective and supportive Caribbean Development Co-operation Committee (CDCC/ECLAC) and called upon the current Chairman of CDCC to work with ECLAC and member States, through the most effective channels, to ensure the implementation of the recommendations on the role and functioning of CDCC.

They expressed their satisfaction with the development of relations with a number of countries in the Caribbean, including Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles, and with Latin American countries, such as Brazil and Venezuela.

### The Organization of American States

The Minirterr noted with satisfaction that the Protocol of Cartagena to the Charter of the Organisation of American States had now received the necessary number of ratifications and had entered into force, thus making it possible for Guyana and Belize to become members of that organization by 1990.

They expressed grave concern at the continuing financial crisis in the OAS, which threatens to undermine the very purposes and principles of the amended Charter of the Organisation of American States, and called upon all member States in arrears to make good their contributions to the regular and voluntary funds.

The Minirterr reaffirmed their commitment to OAS as an instrument for peace and security, the preservation of democracy and respect for human rights, co-operation against drug abuse and drug trafficking, and programmes of technical co-operation among the countries of the Americas.

### International economic issues

The Minirterr noted with continued concern the persistent decline in net resource flows to the developing countries, in spite of the recognition by the developed world that there flows are a sine qua non for development.

The Minirterr reviewed the proposals for debt relief put forward recently by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States. They were encouraged by the fact that the proposals recognised the role of debt reduction as an essential aspect of the debt relief strategy. They noted that in these proposals the commercial banks were called upon to adopt a more positive approach to the provision of financial support to debtor countries. They also welcomed the call upon the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to give direct support to measures to achieve reductions in debt and debt servicing. The Ministers regarded there proposals as a step in the right direction.

The Ministers pointed out that the member States of the Caribbean Community, as small middle-income countries for whom the debt burden is in many ways greater than that of the larger countries, look forward to the development of such proposalr in a way that includes them as beneficiaries.

### Relations with the United States of America

The Minirterr ● ☒☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ their satisfaction at the introduction in the United States Congress of legislation to amend the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, and agreed to issue a separate statement on the matter.

### Relations with the European Economic Community (EEC)

Having reviewed the state of the ACP/EEC negotiations for the Successor Convention to Lomé III, the Minirterr recalled, with a feeling of achievement and appreciation, the spirit of adventure, collaboration and enterprise that went into the fashioning of the historic Lomé I Convention. They expressed the hope that the new Convention would be inspired by the same attitudes of mutual support and innovation evident in Lomé I, while taking account of changing conditions in Europe and in the ACP countries.

### Island developing countries

The Minirterr reviewed the question of the special problems and specific needs of island developing countries.

They welcomed the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report of the Meeting of the Group of Experts on Island Developing Countries, which was held in Malta on 24 and 25 May 1988, and the report of the United Nations Secretary-General on specific problems and special needs of island developing countries which was issued on 25 August 1988 (b/43/513 and Corr.1). They expressed the need to draw the attention of the international community to the two programmes of action for small island developing countries, issued by the CARICOM Ministers for Foreign Affairs (A/C.2/43/7 and Corr.1) and by the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee 1/ on 27 October and 14 December 1988 respectively.

The Ministers noted the adoption of General Assembly resolution 43/189 of 20 December 1988 on specific measures in favour of island developing countries, and expressed satisfaction that the Assembly called for both the strengthening of the authority of UNCTAD as the focal point for specific action at the global level in favour of island developing countries and for the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of governmental ~~●~~ *apporte* of island developing countries and donor countries and organizations to review the problems of island developing countries and propose appropriate concrete action with respect to those countries.

They expressed appreciation to those donor States and specialized agencies of the United Nations system which have *responded* positively to the special needs of island developing countries.

#### Drug abuse and trafficking

The Ministers reaffirmed their grave concern over the continuing threats to regional States posed by powerful drug cartels, which *operate* with blatant disregard for the sovereignty, integrity and legal norms of regional States,

They called for a Hemispheric Meeting of Heads of Governments and top law enforcement officials to review regional drug policies, co-ordinate interdiction strategies and establish guidelines for appropriate regional anti-drug training centres.

They reinforced their support for regional efforts in preventative drug education and rehabilitation,

The Ministers also reiterated their concern with the tendency toward<sup>8</sup> the extra-territorial application of legal jurisdiction by States involved in the war against drugs. They noted that this tendency threatened to undermine co-operation among friendly nations united in their determination to fight the drug scourge.

#### The environment

The Ministers noted that the protection of the environment had been assuming a position of great importance on national, regional and international agenda.

They also noted the various regional and international initiatives towards the formulation of policies with regard to the environment,, both in respect of the development of natural resources and of the need for preservation.

In this regard, the Ministers took note of the recently adopted Amazon Declaration made by the Heads of State of the States Parties to the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation at Manaus, Brazil. That Declaration had underscored the sovereign right of each country to manage freely its resources, bearing in mind the need for promoting the economic and social development of its people, as well as the need for the adequate conservation of the environment. In this connection, they expressed the hope that the rights and interests of developing countries would always be given due consideration.



The Ministers welcomed the convening of the First Meeting of CARICOM Ministers responsible for the Environment scheduled to be held at the end of May in Trinidad and Tobago, and expressed the hope that the Meeting would result in the formulation of a common and co-ordinated position for the member States of CARICOM with regard to the management and protection of the environment of the region.

#### Exclusive economic zones

The Ministers stressed the importance of the earliest possible formulation of a regional programme of co-operation for the management of their territorial waters and exclusive economic zones. To this end, they asked that priority attention be given to the implementation of the schedule of activities already proposed under the aegis of the Community.

#### Proposal for the establishment of an international criminal court

The Ministers received with appreciation the background paper presented by Trinidad and Tobago on the establishment of an international criminal court. They noted that, in addition to its consideration in other forums outside of CARICOM, the proposal had been introduced at the last Conference of Heads of Government in Antigua and Barbuda in 1988 and that it had also been considered by Attorneys-General as recently as last April at Port-of-Spain. In the continuing pursuit of this initiative, the Ministers agreed to examine the further information presented by Trinidad and Tobago and to submit their comments to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago by way of preparation for the next Conference of Heads of Government Meeting, where the proposal will be further discussed. The Ministers took note of the request by Trinidad and Tobago for support for this initiative and the desire that was expressed that it should become a CARICOM initiative.

#### Date and venue of next meeting

The Ministers recalled their acceptance at their fourteenth regular meeting, of the offer by the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to host their sixteenth meeting, and looked forward to the convening of that meeting at Kingstown in 1990,

The Ministers accepted the offer of Barbados to host the seventeenth meeting, and that of the Bahamas to host the eighteenth regular meeting of the Standing Committee in 1991 and 1992, respectively.

#### Notes

1/ LC/CAR/G.259/Rev.7, dated 14 December 1988, a document of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean.

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