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63 (m), 64 (b), 73, 82, 84, 85,  
90, 111, 139, 140, 152 and 157**

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

**ZONE OF PEACE AND CO-OPERATION OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC**

**THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL  
PEACE AND SECURITY AND PEACE INITIATIVES**

**QUESTION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS)**

**QUESTION OF NAMIBIA**

**LAUNCHING OF GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT**

**GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN  
DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT**

**GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: CONVENTIONAL DISARMAMENT**

**GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT**

**GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS**

**GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: CONVENTIONAL DISARMAMENT ON  
A REGIONAL SCALE**

**REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF  
THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:  
DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY**

COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL  
PEACE AND SECURITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARTER OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT

PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS  
OF MANKIND

WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS

MEASURES TO PREVENT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM WHICH ENDANGERS  
OR TAKES INNOCENT HUMAN LIVES OR JEOPARDIZES FUNDAMENTAL  
**FREEDOMS** AND STUDY OF THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF THOSE FORMS  
OF TERRORISM AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE WHICH LIE IN MISERY,  
FRUSTRATION, **GRIEVANCE** AND DESPAIR AND WHICH CAUSE; SOME  
PEOPLE TO SACRIFICE HUMAN LIVES, INCLUDING THEIR OWN, IN AN  
ATTEMPT TO EFFECT RADICAL CHANGES,

- (a) REPORT OF THE **SECRETARY-GENERAL**;
- (b) CONVENING, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, OF AN  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO DEFINE TERRORISM AND TO DIFFERENTIATE  
IT FROM THE STRUGGLE OF PEOPLES FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION

PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRINCIPLES AND NORMS OF  
INTERNATIONAL LAW RELATING TO THE NEW INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC ORDER

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS AND  
ENTITIES ENGAGED IN ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN NARCOTIC  
DRUGS ACROSS NATIONAL FRONTIERS AND OTHER **TRANSNATIONAL**  
CRIMINAL **ACTIVITIES**; ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL  
CRIMINAL COURT WITH JURISDICTION OVER SUCH CRIMES

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER THE  
QUESTION OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AGAINST ILLICIT  
PRODUCTION, SUPPLY, **DEMAND**, TRAFFICKING **AND DISTRIBUTION**  
OF NARCOTIC DRUGS, WITH A VIEW TO EXPANDING THE SCOPE  
AND INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SUCH **CO-OPERATION**

Letter dated 23 October 1989 from the Permanent Representatives of  
Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela  
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you the text of the Ica Declaration and **Communiqué** issued on 12 October 1989 by the Presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela at the Third Meeting of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action (see annexes I and II).

We should be grateful if you would have this note and the texts of the Declaration and **Communiqué** circulated as official documents of the General Assembly, under agenda items 28, 33, 34, 35, 36, 44, 63 **(b)**, **(d)**, (g), (h) and (m), 64 (b), 73, 82, 84, 85, 90, 111, 139, 140, 152 and 157.

**(Signed)** Jorge **VASQUEZ**  
Ambassador  
Permanent **Re,resentative** of Argentina  
to the United Nations

**(Signed)** Paulo NOGUEXRA-BATISTA  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Brazil  
to the United Nations

**(Signed)** Enrique **PEÑALOSA**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Colombia  
to the United Nations

**(Signed)** Jorge **MONTAÑO**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Mexico  
to the United Nations

**(Signed)** Ricardo V. LUNA  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Peru  
to the United Nations

**(Signed)** Felipe **Héctor** PAOLILLO  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Uruguay  
to the United Nations

**(Signed)** **Andrés** AGUILAR  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Venezuela  
to the United Nations

ANNEX I

**Declaration issued on 12 October 1989 at Ica, Peru, by the Presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela at the Third Meeting of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action**

The **Heads** of State of Argentina, **Brazil**, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, meeting in the city of Ica, Peru, on 11 and 12 October 1989, held the Third Presidential Meeting of the Permanent Mechanism for **Consultation** and Concerted Political Action and adopted the **following**:

ICA DECLARATION

I. LATIN **AMERICA** AND THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION

1. During the year that **has** gone by since the Second Presidential Meeting at **Punta del Este**, Uruguay, the positive trends in international relations, have **gained** ground **as** evidenced by the growing understanding between the **super-Powers**, the subsequent **easing** of tension and an increase in the multilateral approach towards the **settlement** of regional conflicts.
2. We **aspire** to a world that is **increasingly** open and interdependent, and free of ideological inflexibility. We cannot agree with the tendency to divide the world into spheres of influence, nor do we believe that the **détente** which **exists** today between **the super-Powers should** give rise to new **hegemonistic** designs that would prevent the **necessary democratization** of the international system.
3. Latin America has an important role to play **in** the creation of a new world order, The maintenance of peace and security in the region has clear global and intraregional implications. There is an urgent need to restate the traditional concepts of global and regional security, bearing in mind the economic and social factors involved.
4. Our continent is becoming **more** deeply affected by a process of change that is **characterized** by **democratization**, efforts to promote **social** justice and the **modernization** of the production apparatus, and the emergence of new forms of concerted political action at **the** intraregional level.
5. However, the **move** towards democracy and the increase in political participation in Latin America still lack a sound economic foundation. While **recognizing** the need for efforts to be made within the countries themselves, the region is still exposed to the negative impact of **some** of the economic policies pursued by highly **industrialized** countries.

## II. DEMOCRACY AND **DEVELOPMENT** IN LATIN AMERICA

6. Throughout their history, with variations depending on the situation in each country - our peoples, who share the ideals of unity, development and solidarity, have fought to achieve and strengthen democratic systems of government that have become increasingly equitable and **are** better able to **meet** the political, social and economic demands **of** the people. In this regard, Latin American **democracy** has promoted social change and fostered the inclusion **of** broad sectors of the population into the political **process**. We therefore **intend to** strengthen the institutional development **of** democracy on the basis **of respect for** the sovereign will **of** the people to promote social justice and human rights in all their aspects.

7. **We** note that the consolidation **of** democracy in Latin America is taking place under the threat **of** a persistent and profound socio-economic **crisis**. Democracy, in and **of** itself, does not guarantee development. Nor **does** economic growth necessarily guarantee freedom and democracy. In Latin America, democracy is threatened by international economic **disequilibria** and the debt **crisis**, as a result of which the economies **of** the region have become the sources **of** a net transfer of financial resources abroad. Now, more than **ever before**, democracy and development require solidarity and effective support at the international level.

## III. SECURITY ASPECTS

### Illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse

8. **We** reiterate **our** firm determination to fight the illicit trafficking in anti abuse **of** narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. **We** undertake to co-ordinate policies and methods aimed at strengthening our efforts to combat this problem, with due respect for national sovereignty.

9. These activities **can** be eliminated only through a comprehensive approach, co-ordination between producer and consumer countries and the drawing up of specific proposals. We attach the utmost importance to the fact that some countries where demand for drugs **is** high have **expressed** their determination to deal effectively with the problem,

10. **We** wish to stress the need **for** international co-operation in:

(a) Monitoring transfers of capital and of goods, in order to prevent the use **of** the international financial market to launder profits from illicit drug trafficking)

(b) Monitoring the international trade in precursors and essential chemical products, equipment and materials used in the production **of** these substances;

(c) Exchanging experiences relating to methods and technologies in the areas of prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and the **reintegration** of drug addicts into society, as well as basic and specialised training of personnel.

11. We undertake to work for the ratification of the United Nations **Convention** against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in order to expedite its entry into force.

12. We condemn the criminal violence associated with illicit drug trafficking, which is aggravated in several cases by the connections between drug trafficking and terrorist and subversive groups, a situation which poses a threat to the stability of democratic systems.

13. We support the convening of a special session of the United Nations General Assembly to consider the drug problem. We also look forward to the forthcoming ministerial **meeting** on the consumption and production of illicit traffic in narcotics and psychotropic substances to be held under the auspices of the Organisation of American States (OAS). We also support the United Kingdom initiative for the convening, in co-ordination with the United Nations, of a major international conference for the purpose of considering, inter alia, the reduction of illicit drug demand.

14. We express our firm support for the people and Government of Colombia in the important struggle they have undertaken against drug trafficking and offer them our fullest support. To this end, we have instructed our Ministers concerned with this **matter** to identify actions which can be taken immediately.

#### Terrorism

15. We reaffirm our condemnation of terrorism. Terrorism constitutes a systematic and deliberate violation of human rights, undermines the stability of the democratic system, and causes loss of life and heavy material damage. Terrorism is a threat to peace and security and **affects** the **normal** conduct of relations between States. It **calls** for the strengthening of the machinery for international co-operation to prevent and eliminate it.

#### Clandestine traffic in arms

16. Democratic **institutions** and regional security can be seriously threatened by the action of groups which obtain arms in the world's clandestine markets and promote violence, terrorism, mercenarism and subversion. We therefore appeal to all States to shoulder their responsibilities by adopting effective measures and controls to halt the growing clandestine traffic in arms. We also request international and regional bodies to give special attention to this matter.

#### Central America

17. We **express** our satisfaction at the outcome of the meeting of Central American Presidents held at Tela, Honduras, which has helped to strengthen the process aimed at establishing a firm and lasting peace in the Central American region.

18. We support the political will **for** dialogue and **reconciliation** demonstrated since the Central American summit and the resulting **efforts** to ensure that the agreements which have been signed **are** effectively carried out. We reaffirm **our** belief in a Latin American solution to the crisis and call on all interested parties in bringing peace to Central America **to direct** their actions towards a **final** solution to this regional **crisis** and **to refrain from providing** any assistance or taking **any** action that could **hamper** this **process**.

19. Towards that end, we support and encourage **the** establishment **of** international observer groups by the United Nations and the **Organization** of American States, as requested by the five Central American Presidents, **for** the purpose **of** ensuring the **effective** fulfilment **of** the **commitments** undertaken by them.

20. We pledge to redouble **our** efforts in support **of** the Special Plan **of** Economic Co-operation for Central **America** approved by **the** United Nations General **Assembly** in March 1988 by strengthening our co-operation projects **with those** countries **on** the basis **of** the **guidelines** contained in the Acapulco Commitment.

To that **end**, we have instructed our Ministers for Foreign Affairs to review the status **of** such co-operation and to draw up a timetable **for specific** and concerted actions benefiting those **countries**.

We also urge the international community to redouble **its efforts** in favour of economic **recovery** in **Central America**, which is **an** urgent and essential factor in ensuring peace and prosperity,

### **The situation in the South Atlantic**

21. We express our satisfaction at the imminent resumption **of** negotiations between Argentina and the United **Kingdom**, **to** be held at Madrid, Spain, on 17 and 18 October 1989, which will **promote** the objectives **of** the declaration of the zone of peace and co-operation **of the** South Atlantic, We also reiterate our support for the **Argentine** Republic's **legitimate** rights of sovereignty.

### **Regional economic assistance**

22. We **express our** intention to strengthen regional economic security through the establishment **of effective** machinery to facilitate mutual support and solidarity among the countries of the region in the event of **emergencies** resulting from serious and unforeseen circumstances.

### **Fight against poverty**

23. Poverty is a great social injustice and poses a potential threat to the stability of our countries. The eradication **of** poverty is a global, objective and urgent necessity. Consequently, we resolutely undertake to continue our fight to **overcome** poverty and shall support any relevant decision adopted both within the United Nations and in other international and regional forums.

A substantial increase in the transfer of resources for development and international co-operation would also help to eradicate poverty.

#### IV. EXTERNAL DEBT AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

##### External debt

24. The external indebtedness of Latin America continues to be one of the most serious problems facing our region. Its effects in terms of serious deterioration in the social, political and economic spheres are being felt with alarming frequency and a speedy and appropriate solution is called for. The stability and consolidation of the democracies in the region will continue to depend to a great extent on such a solution.

25. The primary objective of sound and sustained economic growth through the application of appropriate fiscal, monetary, external and anti-inflationary policies cannot be achieved unless a definitive solution is found to the debt problem. In particular, the net transfer of resources resulting from repayments on the **public** external debt must be adjusted to ~~the~~ the fiscal situation of each economy in order to avoid creating a new cause of **inflation** in the countries of the continent.

26. Recognising a market reality, debt and/or debt-service reduction has a fundamental **role** to play in the solution of this problem. New debt and debt-service reduction schemes must apply without discrimination to those debtors which require them. At the same time, the continued availability of financing for economic and social development must be ensured.

27. In the specific case of heavily indebted middle-income countries, in particular those that have not restructured their debt but have been making efforts to meet their debt-service obligations with a view to a gradual normalisation ~~of~~ of their **relations** with the international financial system, the international community must provide urgent and equitable debt relief through solutions tailored to each individual case.

28. The international financial institutions and the official agencies must be a source of positive net transfers to the region. In addition to supporting development efforts, it is necessary to alleviate arrears problems, which must be solved through a constructive approach by all the parties *involved*. Special attention must be given to the cases of countries that are highly indebted to these sources of finance. For that purpose, we recommend that mechanisms for the timely re-establishment of new credit flows should be sought. as a matter of urgency.

29. The aim of intervention by the international financial institutions in debt and debt-service reduction schemes is to facilitate their implementation or **strengthen** their impact. Consequently, there is no justification for the adoption of rigid eligibility and operational criteria by those institutions, which hinders rather than facilitates such operations.

30. We, the Heads of State, have instructed our Ministers of Finance to continue to **meet** periodically in order to co-ordinate measures leading to full



implementation of **the** relevant guidelines. Towards that end the measures referred to in annex I to this document should be adopted.\*

#### Latin American intraregional debt

31. We, the Heads of State, are convinced that any adequate solution to the problem of the Latin American intraregional debt must **take** into account the link between debt, finance and trade, and must give an impetus to our efforts in the sphere of economic co-operation and integration.

32. On the basis of the guidelines and mechanisms for the treatment of Latin American intraregional public debt that were approved at the meeting of Ministers of Finance in December 1988, which appear as annex II to this Declaration,\* and which were further developed at the technical meeting held in August 1989, we have decided to promote a new voluntary procedure for negotiations between debtors and creditors (the Rio Club) which will make possible innovative arrangements that will create the conditions necessary to enable debtors to meet their obligations and restore the conditions for financing in support of the process of regional integration and co-operation. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, will be the headquarters of the secretariat responsible for compiling and disseminating information on the application of the relevant guidelines and on arrangements in which our countries participate.

33. Similarly, adequate consideration will have to be given to the Latin American intraregional private debt.

34. In view of the fact that the subject of the Latin American intraregional debt is to be studied at the regional conference on external debt to be held under the auspices of SELA in March 1990, we have instructed our Ministers of Finance to present, in the context of that meeting and on the basis of the established guidelines, proposals for promoting an exchange of views among all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the drawing up of specific measures.

35. We stress the importance of the Inter-American Development Bank and the Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies preparing **and** implementing the information system on Latin American intraregional debt deriving from the mandate **of** the Uruguay Declaration.

36. We stress the need for the Inter-American Development Bank to channel **resources** to support the efforts to reduce **the** Latin American intraregional debt.

#### International trade

37. The debt-trace linkage **must** be recognised in negotiations on debt and debt-service **reduction, and** in negotiations aimed at increasing international

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\* The annexes to the Declaration were received and are available for consultation in the files of the Secretariat.

trade. Without an expansion in **our exports** there can be no **solution** to the external debt problem that **is placing such a severe strain** on **our economies**.

38. The participation of our **countries** in international trade continues to be hampered by **protectionism** and **policies for the subsidization of** production and exports, **particularly farm products**, and also by macro-economic imbalances in **some highly industrialized countries**,

39. There **is also** the persistence of unilateral **restrictions** based on the national **legislation of some highly developed countries**, many of which infringe existing multilateral **agreements**, while others hinder legitimate **access** to the most advanced **technologies**. We urge those countries to eliminate all such **measures** with a view to **promoting** an international trading **system** that is fair, transparent and **predictable**.

40. The Uruguay **Round provides** an **exceptional** opportunity to remove the **obstacles** to the expansion of our exports and imports. We again **stress** the validity and full applicability of **the principle of** special and more favourable treatment for the developing countries, which **must** be made **effective** through **specific measures** in each and **every** phase of negotiation in the Uruguay Round.

#### V. REGIONAL INTEGRATION

41. Latin American integration is a political aim and fundamental objective of the economic strategy of the countries of the region. To advance in that direction, we must update **the** arrangements and consider options not only **in trade matters**, but also in other **fields, such as telecommunications** and transport, **scientific** and technological co-operation, and **others**.

#### Economic integration

42. The new orientation of the Latin American economy must make it **possible** to increase our capacity to compete with the rest of the world. Efforts **towards integration** also **seek** fuller participation by Latin America in the **international** economy.

43. In order to achieve these **aims** of economic integration it is necessary to create the objective conditions which will increase trade, bring about **complementarity**, generate joint investment and increase exchanges between our countries. Such conditions **must** be achieved through a progressive **harmonization** of economic policies, ensuring that our countries share equitably both the costs and the benefits of the integration process. Countries with persistent surpluses must make a resolute effort to **overcome** trade imbalances dynamically. Similarly, co-ordinated programmes must be prepared in order to broaden the export output of the countries as a whole,

44. We **welcome** the advance towards integration **evidenced** by important new **subregional agreements**.

45. **ALADI** is the body that provides the institutional framework for regional integration. We **must** critically review the approaches and criteria applied in ALADI in order to streamline the machinery for negotiation, making them **more** flexible and **more** responsive to the requirements of the current situation.

46. Financing is **essential** for integration. Innovative approaches are called for, including the **possibilities** offered by the **treatment of the Latin American** intraregional **debt**, in order to **mobilize** increased **resources**. We have instructed our Ministers of Finance to draw up a **programme** in this area for the first half of 1990,

### Communications and transport

47. The **modernization** of telecommunications and transport **is** a strategic objective in seeking to give impetus to integration and improve **our** competitiveness. We **must** make better use of our infrastructure by avoiding duplication, taking **advantage of** opportunities for joint procurement in order to **secure** better **purchase terms**, harmonise our countries' regulatory **schemes** and foster similar positions in the negotiations on services in international **forums**.

48. We have instructed the Ministers of **Communications** and Transport to continue the work begun at the meeting held in Mexico on 4 and 5 September 1989.

### Cultural integration

49. We reaffirm **our** commitment to make a concerted effort to preserve, enrich and disseminate **our** respective cultures with a view to strengthening awareness of our collective identity and cultural diversity,

50. In addition to working on **projects** to secure free circulation of cultural goods and services, measures will be taken to develop cultural channels, programmes of **scholarships** for artistic and vocational training, and to facilitate **meetings of artists** and other **workers** in creative **fields**; and appropriate mechanisms **will** be established to promote Latin American culture in the areas of music, the cinema and television, the visual arts, literature, the theatre and the humanities. We have agreed to take immediate **measures** to facilitate the production, transportation, **distribution** and consumption of books and *films*, **as a matter of priority**) such measures constituting the basis for a common market,

51. We have instructed **our** Ministers responsible for culture to pursue the specific **measures** drawn up at their meeting in Caracas, **Venezuela**, on 17 September 1989.

### Science and technology

52. We again stress that co-operation in the areas of science and technology must play a central role in the process of integration. In order to translate that objective into reality, a small number of priorities must **be** identified with a view to **channelling** international co-operation towards those priorities. For that purpose, we have decided to convene a meeting of ministers or other officials responsible for those areas.

## VI. ENVIRONMENT

53. We reiterate our concern at the deterioration of the global environment. We also declare our firm commitment to continue to adopt the **measures** within our power for the rehabilitation **and sustained conservation** of the environment. The main **cause** of this alarming deterioration is to be found in the **models of industrialisation and patterns** of consumption of the developed countries. In recognition of their **responsibility** for this problem **and also** of the greater amount of **resources** available to them, those countries should bear the largest share of the **costs of** reversing the processes which endanger the environmental equilibrium of our planet, such as the destruction of the **ozone** layer, induced climatic changes - especially as a result of the incomplete burning of fossil fuels - and the environmentally unsound **management of hazardous** wastes and their transfer to developing countries.

54. In our region, the degradation of the environment is **closely** linked with poverty and underdevelopment. Development and the **economic** revitalisation of our countries **and** their free access to scientific and technological knowledge could **form the framework for** adopting policies to promote social welfare, the rational use of resources and environmental protection.

55. We express our readiness to continue to **expand** regional co-operation in the area of the environment as well as to co-operate with countries from outside the region and with international institutions in a position to contribute to the implementation of projects and **programmes** for the protection and conservation of the environment, in **accordance** with our Governments' priorities and our sovereign right to manage our natural resources in a rational manner.

56. In reiterating our commitment not to acquire or produce nuclear **weapons** or other weapons of mass destruction, we reaffirm that the very **existence** of such weapons and their further development constitute the most serious threat to the environment and to the very existence of mankind.

## VII. CONCERTED POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ACTION

57. We commit ourselves to endeavour to strengthen the **Organization of American States** as the appropriate political forum for a new era of **dialogue** and understanding in the hemisphere, and we urge all member countries to make full use of its mechanisms.

58. It is our aspiration that the membership of the **Organization of American States** should include **all** the countries of the hemisphere in order to enhance that **Organization's** political influence, We make a friendly appeal to the **Governments** of Belize, Canada, Cuba and Guyana to become full participants in the work of the **Organization** in due course.

59. We commit ourselves to work together for the success of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation, in particular to the **revitalization** of economic growth and development in the

developing countries, and to intensify our efforts to strengthen the Council of the Latin American Economic System as a forum for concerted economic co-ordination and regional co-operation.

60. We note with satisfaction that the dialogue begun by the Mechanism with other States and groups of states has become stronger. We reiterate our readiness to continue the dialogue with the European Community, the Nordic Council, Canada and Japan, and to begin similar periodic meetings with other regions and States of the world.

#### VIII. VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

61. We have agreed to meet in Venezuela during the second half of 1990.

62. The Presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela express their sincere thanks to the Government and people of Peru for their warm hospitality during the Third Presidential Meeting of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action.

**Carlos Saul MENEM**

President of the Argentine Republic

**José SARNEY**

President of the Federative  
Republic of Brazil

**Virgilio BARCO**

President of the Republic of Colombia

**Carlos SALINAS DE GORTARI**

President of the United Mexican States

**Alan GARCIA**

President of the Republic of Peru

**Julio Maria SANGUINETTI**

President of the Eastern Republic  
of Uruguay

**Carlos Andrés PEREZ**

President of the Republic of Venezuela

ANNEX II

**Communiqué issued on 12 October 1989 at Ica, Peru, by the Presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela on the occasion of the Third Presidential Meeting of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action**

The **heads of State** of Argentina, **Brazil**, Colombia, **Mexico**, Peru, Uruguay and **Venezuela**, meeting at **Ica, Peru**, on 11 and 12 October 1989, held the Third Presidential Meeting of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action and adopted the following:

COMMUNIQUE

I, THE INTERNATIONAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION

1. Two years ago, we met at Acapulco in **order to make the** Group of Eight a reality. The **world situation** at that time was very different than it is **today**: confrontations, **world** conflicts and Central **America** on the brink of violent interventions.
2. **We** are encouraged to note today the beginnings of a climate **of détente** and the prospect of a long period of peace **for** mankind.
3. The **United States** and the Soviet Union are getting along **together**. The troops are leaving **Afghanistan**. There are genuine peace negotiations in Namibia, Angola and southern **Africa** as a **whole**; unfortunately, the execrable **apartheid régime** remains **untouchable**. Central America is **moving** towards a **reduction** of decreased tension and a search for solutions.
4. Our **mechanisms**, such as Contadora, Cartagena and **the** Rio Group have followed the problems closely and have demonstrated foresight by creating conditions **for** negotiation.
5. There is a new climate in the world, **We** would like that climate to reach Latin America.
6. Progress in solving the debt problem has been slow in a number **of** countries, thereby posing an **ever-growing** threat to their progress and well-being. The solutions proposed for those countries have been insufficient.  
  
Latin America **has** lost ground, and our current per capita products are lower than they were in 1980.
7. The Group has developed a presidential diplomacy, strengthened **and** sustained democracy, avoided conflicts and promoted **integration** policies. Today it is a strong **mechanism**, capable of taking decisions.

## II. DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA

8. Throughout their history - with variations depending on the situation in each country - our peoples, who share the **ideals of unity, development and solidarity**, have fought **to** achieve and strengthen democratic **systems of government** that have **become increasingly** equitable and **are** better able to **meet** the political, social and economic **demand's of** the people. In this regard, Latin **American** democracy has promoted **social** change and fostered the inclusion of broad sectors **of** the population **in** the political process. We therefore intend to strengthen the institutional development **of** democracy **on** the basis **of respect for** the sovereign will of the people to **promote** social justice and human rights in all their aspects.

9. Unfortunately, the **problem of Panama**, with its lack **of** democracy and violations of human rights, persists. In the **face of** such circumstances, we have decided to **confirm** the suspension **of** the current Panamanian Government **from** the Group's **deliberations**.

The situation will be reviewed only **if** Panama returns to the respect for **democratic** guarantees, which today are absolutely **unknown** in that country. This indefinite suspension is based on **reports of** increasingly serious violations **of** human and political rights in **Panama**, which is why we will propose that the Organisation **of** American States instruct **the** Inter-American **Commission on Human Rights** to **investigate** such violations.

10. We have also agreed to declare that respect for international law and the principle of non-intervention entails faithful compliance with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties **on** the Panama Canal.

## III. SECURITY ASPECTS

### Drug production and abuse and illicit trafficking

11. We affirm our commitment to fight **with** all the means at our disposal against **the** production and abuse **of**, and the illicit traffic in, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. **We** undertake to co-ordinate policies and methods aimed at strengthening our efforts to combat this problem, with due respect **for** national sovereignty.

### Terrorism

12. We reaffirm our **condemnation of** terrorism. Terrorism constitutes a systematic and deliberate violation of human rights, undermines the stability of the democratic **system** and causes loss of life and heavy material damage.

### Central America

13. We express our satisfaction at the **outcome** of the meeting of Central American Presidents held at Tela, Honduras, which has helped to strengthen the process aimed at the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in the Central American region. We especially value and support the political will for dialogue and reconciliation

demonstrated since the Central American summit, and the resulting efforts to ensure that the agreements which have been signed are effectively carried out. The present aim is to support economic recovery in the region.

#### The situation in the South Atlantic

14. We express our satisfaction at the imminent resumption of discussions between Argentina and the United Kingdom, which will promote the objectives of the declaration of the zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic. We also reiterate our support for the Argentine Republic's legitimate rights of sovereignty.

#### IV. EXTERNAL DEBT AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

##### External debt

15. The external indebtedness of Latin America continues to be one of the most serious problems facing our region. Its effects in terms of serious deterioration in the social, political and economic spheres are being felt with alarming frequency, and a speedy and urgent solution is called for.

16. For this reason it is all the more important that the Governments of developing countries should continue the efforts which some of them have already undertaken, and should promote tax and regulatory changes which would secure the necessary participation of banks in debt and debt-service reduction programmes, without unduly inhibiting flows of new resources.

17. It is therefore absolutely imperative that debtor countries be provided with a sufficient volume of resources by multilateral institutions and bilateral sources in order to enable them to repurchase and collateralise debt at a significant discount to underpin debt restructuring programmes and agreements. It is therefore particularly important to provide for a substantial replenishment of quotas in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in order to strengthen the latter's financial capacity.

18. Some progress has been made in recent negotiations, but a lasting solution to the debt problem can be achieved only in the context of a policy based on the principle of shared responsibility leading to a substantial reduction in debt and debt-servicing taking into account the value of the debt in the secondary market, and the capacity to pay and development needs of each country.

##### Latin American intraregional debt

19. On the basis of the guidelines and mechanisms for the treatment of the Latin American intraregional public debt approved at the meeting of Ministers of Finance in December 1988, we have decided to advocate a new voluntary procedure for negotiations between debtors and creditors (the Rio Club) which will make possible innovative arrangements that will create the conditions necessary to enable debtors to meet their obligations.



### International trade

20. The debt-trade **linkage should be recognised in the negotiations with a view to** reducing the debt and debt-servicing, as well as in the **negotiations** aimed at increasing international trade. Unless we expand **our exports, we cannot hope to** solve our external-debt problem, which **is** placing **such a severe** strain on our economies. The participation of the Latin **American countries** in international trade continues to be hampered by protectionism, subsidy policies and unilateral restrictions imposed by **some** developed countries, We urge those countries to **remove** those barriers.

### V. **REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

21. Latin American integration is the political **aim and fundamental** objective of the economic strategy of the countries **of** the region.

We hereby direct our Ministers for Foreign and Economic Affairs, and our Ministers of Finance and of Planning to convene in Argentina on 4 and 5 December next for the purpose of preparing a **draft** programme of integration that will enable our **countries** to make substantial progress before 1992 in the following areas:

(a) Substitution **of tariffs for quantitative restrictions;**

(b) **General tariff** reduction at appropriate **rates;**

(c) **Removal of** the physical obstacles to integration, particularly **in the** transport and communications **sector;**

(d) **Harmonization of** the **initiatives** in progress;

(e) Gradual **harmonization of macro-economic policies;**

(f) Identification of specific **economic complementarity projects;**

(g) Joint programmes of co-operation in science **and** technology,

### Communications and transport

22. **Modernization** of telecommunications and transport is a strategic objective designed to give impetus to integration and improve our competitiveness.

We agree that within no **more** than 60 days, the **Ministers** and Secretaries of Communications and Transport shall **meet** in Rio de Janeiro for the purpose of drawing up agreements on communications and transport based on the **preparatory** meeting held in Mexico, in particular, **on new technologies** and satellite **systems**, and of considering proposals dealing with **communications** and transport **systems** that will further strengthen integration among the countries of the Mechanism.

### **Cultural integration**

23. We reaffirm our **commitment** to make a **concerted effort** to **preserve**, enrich and disseminate **our** respective cultures with a view to strengthening **awareness** of our collective **identity and cultural diversity**,

We propose to establish Latin American Cultural Centres and within one year at **most** to eliminate customs **duties** impeding the **free** circulation of books among **our** countries. We shall also **seek** a reduction in **shipping** rates which will facilitate free circulation.

We direct our Ministers **of** Cultural **Affairs** or their equivalents to implement the cultural programme for integration **that they developed at Caracas in** September 1989.

### **VI, ENVIRONMENT**

24. We reiterate our concern about the deterioration of the global environment. We further assert our determination to continue to adopt the **measures** within our power **for its rehabilitation** and sustained conservation.

25. The main cause **of this alarming** deterioration is to be found in the models **of industrialization** and patterns of consumption of the industrialised countries. In recognition **of their responsibility**, those countries should bear the largest share of the costs **of reversing** the processes which endanger the environmental equilibrium of our planet.

**26.** In our region, the degradation of the environment is closely linked with poverty and underdevelopment.

### **VII. ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**

27. In order for the Organization of American States (**OAS**) to be fully representative and, by that token, politically relevant, **we make a friendly appeal** to the Governments of Belize, **Canada**, Cuba and Guyana to become members. We condemn all **forms of** colonialism in Latin America.

### **VIII. VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

28. We have agreed to **meet** in Venezuela during the **second** half of 1990.

29. We endorse the Declaration drafted by our **Ministers** for Foreign Affairs in Trujillo, on which this **communiqué** is based.

30. We, the Presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela expressed our sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Peru for their warm hospitality during the Third Presidential Meeting of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action.

Carlos Saul **MENEM**  
President of the Argentine Republic

**José**SARNEY  
President of the Federative Republic  
of **Brazil**

**Virgilio**BARCO  
President of the Republic of Colombia

Carlos SALINAS DE GORTARI  
President of the United States of Mexico

Alan GARCIA  
President of the Republic of Peru

Julio Maria SANGUINETTI  
President of the Eastern Republic of  
Uruguay

Carlos **Andrés** PEREZ  
President of the Republic of Venezuela