

OEA/Ser.C/II.15

FIFTEENTH MEETING
OF CONSULTATION
OF
MINISTERS
OF
FOREIGN
AFFAIRS

SERVING AS ORGAN OF CONSULTATION IN APPLICATION OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN TREATY OF RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE

NOVEMBER 8 THROUGH 12, 1980

QUITO, ECUADOR

FINAL ACT

General Secretariat of the Organization of American States
Washington, D.C.

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FINAL ACT

THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SERVING AS ORGAN OF CONSULTATION IN APPLICATION OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN TREATY OF RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE

Preamble

The Fifteenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs serving as Organ of Consultation in application of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance was held in Quito from November 8 through 12, 1974.

The Meeting was convoked through a resolution of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States, adopted on September 20, 1974, whose text is as follows:

WHEREAS:

The Council has taken cognizance of the note from the representatives of the Republics of Colombia, Costa Rica, and Venezuela, whereby their governments request convocation of a Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs serving as Organ of Consultation in application of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, in order that that meeting, taking into account the change in the circumstances that existed in 1964, may take the pertinent decision with regard to the advisability of discontinuing the application of the provisions of Resolution I of the Ninth Meeting of Consultation;

The Council has also taken note of the several statements made by various representatives during the course of the meeting it began on September 19, 1974, and continued the following day; and

The Government of Ecuador has expressed its willingness to host the Meeting of Consultation in Quito beginning in the second week of November of 1974,

THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

RESOLVES:

1. To convoke a Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs serving as Organ of Consultation in application of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, so that, in strict observance of the principle of nonintervention of a state in the affairs of other states, and taking into account the change in the circumstances that existed when the measures against the Government of Cuba were adopted, it may decide whether there is justification for discontinuing the application of Resolution I of the Ninth Meeting of Consultation, held in Washington in 1964.

2. To express its thanks for and accept the generous offer of the distinguished Government of Ecuador to host the Meeting of the Organ of Consultation in the city of Quito beginning November 8, 1974.

3. To constitute itself and act provisionally as Organ of Consultation, in accordance with Article 12 of the aforementioned Treaty.

4. To inform the United Nations Security Council of this resolution and of any decisions that may be taken in this connection.

The Fifteenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs was attended by the following Ministers and Special Delegates, in the order of precedence established by lot at the closed preliminary session held on November 8, 1974:

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO:	Victor Chrysostom McIntyre Ambassador, Representative to the OAS
MEXICO:	Emilio O. Rabasa Secretary of Foreign Affairs
PERU:	Miguel Angel de la Flor Valle Minister of Foreign Affairs
PANAMA:	Juan Antonio Tack Minister of Foreign Affairs
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:	Víctor Gómez Bergés Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
HONDURAS:	Ricardo Arturo Pineda Milla Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs
UNITED STATES:	Robert S. Ingersoll Deputy Secretary of State
URUGUAY:	Juan Carlos Blanco Minister of Foreign Affairs
GUATEMALA:	Adolfo Molina Orantes Minister of Foreign Affairs
CHILE:	Patricio Carvajal Prado Minister of Foreign Affairs
COSTA RICA:	Gonzalo J. Facio Segreda Minister of Foreign Affairs
PARAGUAY:	Raúl Sapena Pastor Minister of Foreign Affairs

BOLIVIA: Alberto Guzmán Soriano
Minister of Foreign Affairs
and Worship

BRAZIL: Antonio Francisco Azeredo da Silveira
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

ARGENTINA: Antonio J. Benítez
Minister of Justice and Acting Minister
of Foreign Affairs and Worship

NICARAGUA: Alejandro Montiel Argüello
Minister of Foreign Affairs

COLOMBIA: Indalecio Liévano Aguirre
Minister of Foreign Affairs

EL SALVADOR: Mauricio Borgonovo Pohl
Minister of Foreign Affairs

HAITI: Edner Brutus
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
and Worship

VENEZUELA: Efraín Schacht Aristiguieta
Minister of Foreign Affairs

ECUADOR: Antonio José Lucio Paredes
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ambassadors Valerie T. McComie and Ivo De Souza attended, participating as Observers for Barbados and Jamaica, respectively, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VII (paragraph 1) of the Regulations.

Also, in accordance with Chapter VII, paragraph 3, of the aforesaid Regulations, the Permanent Observers of the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, Canada, France, Guyana, Italy, Japan, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands attended.

Pursuant to operative paragraph 1 of resolution XXXIX adopted at the Ninth International Conference of American States, the United Nations was represented by an Observer.

The meeting was also attended by His Excellency Calo Plaza, Secretary General of the Organization of American States.

His Excellency the President of Ecuador, General Guillermo Rodríguez Lara, formally opened the Meeting on the afternoon of November 8, 1974.

The Government of Ecuador appointed as provisional President of the Meeting His Excellency Antonio José Lucio Paredes, Minister of Foreign Affairs of that country. Dr. Lucio Paredes was elected permanent President at the opening plenary session held on November 8, 1974. During the same session his Excellency Adolfo Molina Orantes, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, was elected Vice President of the Meeting.

The Government of Ecuador appointed Ambassador Manuel Ignacio Cornejo to be Secretary General, pursuant to Article 9 of the Regulations.

The proceedings were governed by the Regulations of the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs serving as organ of Consultation in application of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, as approved by the Council of the Organization in 1960, with the amendments thereto, and a chapter containing transitory provisions approved by the Permanent Council of the Organization acting provisionally as Organ of Consultation, at the meeting it held on October 29, 1974.

A Committee on Credentials was appointed composed of the delegations of Uruguay (Chairman), Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. A Style Committee was also appointed, formed by the delegations of Colombia, Brazil, the United States, and Haiti.

In accordance with Article 20 of the Regulations, a General Committee was set up, composed of all the members, to examine all matters. His Excellency José Antonio Lucio Paredes, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, and His Excellency Adolfo Molina Orantes, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, were appointed Chairman and Rapporteur of the General Committee, respectively.

In the course of the proceedings a draft resolution was submitted by the delegations of Colombia, Costa Rica, and Venezuela (Doc.19/74), which is included as an appendix.

When this draft resolution was put to a vote at the fifth meeting of the General Committee, held on November 12, 1974, the results were the following: Honduras, Costa Rica, Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador, Venezuela, Ecuador, Trinidad and Tobago, Mexico, Peru, Panama, and the Dominican Republic voted in favor; Uruguay, Chile, and Paraguay voted against; and the United States, Guatemala, Bolivia, Brazil, Nicaragua, and Haiti abstained. Consequently the majority vote required for approval in accordance with the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, was not obtained.

The delegations of Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela requested that a statement made on their behalf by the Delegation of Colombia during the fifth meeting of the General Committee be included in the Final Act of the Meeting.

The delegations of Brazil, Chile, and Uruguay also requested that the statements they made during the same meeting of the General Committee be included in the Final Act.

At the closing session, held on November 12, 1974, addresses were delivered by His Excellency Mauricio Borgonovo Pohl, Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, speaking on behalf of the participating Ministers, and His Excellency, Dr. José Antonio Lucio Paredes, President of the Fifteenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

The Meeting approved the following resolutions:

I

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR

THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SERVING AS ORGAN OF CONSULTATION IN APPLICATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TREATY OF RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE,

RESOLVES:

1. To express its deep appreciation to the Government of Ecuador and in particular to its President, His Excellency General Guillermo Rodríguez Lara, for their generous offer to host the Meeting in Quito, and for all the attention and courtesies shown to the participants.

2. To express its deep appreciation to His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, Antonio José Lucio Paredes, for his skillful and impartial conduct of the discussions.

II

VOTES OF THANKS

THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SERVING AS ORGAN OF CONSULTATION IN APPLICATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TREATY OF RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate Ambassador Manuel Ignacio Cornejo, Secretary General of the Meeting, for the efficient way in which the work was organized and conducted.

2. To thank the Secretary General of the Organization and the personnel for their valuable cooperation.

3. To thank the press and the other hemispheric and world news media for their efficient services.

III

REQUEST TO THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
TO COORDINATE THE TEXTS OF THE FINAL ACT

THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SERVING AS ORGAN OF CONSULTATION IN APPLICATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TREATY OF RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Permanent Council of the Organization to examine the Final Act in order to coordinate the texts in the four official languages.

STATEMENTS

I

STATEMENT MADE BY THE DELEGATIONS OF ARGENTINA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA,
THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS, MEXICO,
PANAMA, PERU, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, AND VENEZUELA

(Fifth Meeting of the General Committee,
November 12, 1974)

The Delegations of Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela to this Fifteenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, make the following

STATEMENT

The measures imposed on Cuba ten years ago, under political conditions totally different from those that prevail in the world today, have rendered those measures anachronistic, ineffective and inadvisable, and, therefore, the Fifteenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs should have formally discontinued application of them.

To that end, the countries that proposed the holding of this Meeting, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Venezuela, presented a draft resolution intended to discontinue application of the measures imposed on Cuba in 1964, and thereby allow the states parties to the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance to decide, in accordance with their sovereign will, on the advisability of reestablishing, at the level and at such time as they deemed appropriate, the relations that they had discontinued with the government of that country.

However, the omission in the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance as to what procedure is to be followed to discontinue application of measures imposed in accordance with the Treaty, has meant that the two-thirds rule provided for adoption of decisions, has been applied, which has meant that three countries, determined to prolong the measures, have managed, by their opposing votes and with the six abstentions, to veto the draft resolution whose ultimate objective was to preserve the authority of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance.

The fact that an absurd procedure, which is contrary to the democratic spirit that should inspire international organizations, has thwarted the express majority will of twelve states parties to the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, cannot be construed as a united front in protest to injurious acts of which Cuba stands accused; nor can it be argued that continuance of the measures imposed by the Ninth Meeting of Consultation is supported by the free will of that majority.

Although it may on the surface produce results that lend formalist but precarious support to Resolution I of the Ninth Meeting of Consultation, the position of those three countries, made easier by the negative effect of the abstentions, in fact seriously compromises the authority of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance and of the Organization of American States, having as a result that other states may join, as will probably happen, those who have reestablished relations with Cuba, since they do not feel compelled to abide by Resolution I inasmuch as it lacks the backing of a majority of the American states.

Although that position may make it even more difficult to revitalize the inter-American system, the countries signing this statement reiterate their unswerving commitment to continue their efforts aimed at restructuring the system, in order to transform it into an instrument for effective cooperation to resolve the numerous problems affecting our countries: underdevelopment, poverty and violence.

For all American peoples to see, let the record show all the efforts that they have made to promote dialogue and understanding among all the nations of the hemisphere, in observance of the principle of non-intervention, as well as their firm intention to remove from the regional sphere all elements that disrupt inter-American accord.

The majority will that supported the proposal to discontinue the measures applied against Cuba faithfully represents the historic event that has taken place here in Quito, the City of light of the Americas, where a stage in inter-American relations has come to an end.

The Representatives and Special Delegates signing this statement wish to express to the Government of Ecuador their appreciation of the noble effort it has made to accomplish the lofty objectives sought here, as the host to this Fifteenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

II

STATEMENT MADE BY THE DELEGATION OF BRAZIL

(Fifth Meeting of the General Committee,
November 12, 1974)

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF BRAZIL

The Fifteenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs serving as Organ of Consultation in application of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance was convoked for the specific purpose of deciding "whether there is justification for discontinuing the application of Resolution I of the Ninth Meeting of Consultation," adopted ten years ago.

The Permanent Council of the Organization of American States defined the terms of reference that should govern our deliberations: strict observance of the principle of nonintervention and consideration of the changes that have occurred in the circumstances that existed when the measures against the Government sanctioned were adopted.

The statements we have heard and the conversations we have held here enabled us to conclude that all of the governments represented consider it of basic importance to reaffirm and strengthen the clear commitment to nonintervention in the internal affairs of other states.

For Brazil, the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other states is the cornerstone of good international relations. It is even more fundamental in the relations between the countries of the hemisphere. The application of this principle should be the rigorous concern of all the American nations and above any consideration of the greater or lesser power of the states.

For that reason, when the debate was initiated in Washington last September regarding the convocation of a new Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the signatory countries of the Rio Treaty to examine the desirability of revoking Resolution I of the Ninth Meeting of Consultation, Brazil's concern was that the countries be stanchly committed to evaluating the circumstances under which the measures mentioned in that resolution were adopted, in the light of strict respect for the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other states.

Brazil's concern was heeded, and the resolution that was unanimously approved on September 29 by the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States, relating to the convocation of this Fifteenth Meeting of Consultation, expressly determined that it should be done "in strict observance of the principle of nonintervention of a state in the affairs of other states."

As we understand it, therefore, our governments, whose representatives are meeting here, accept and reaffirm that that principle must govern the relations of all the countries of the hemisphere. We also understand that these same governments are persuaded that strict adherence to that principle is fundamental to the strengthening of the inter-American system, which is likewise a common objective of us all.

That, in itself, is an auspicious result of this Meeting, which I am pleased to bring to your attention.

As to the considerations concerning the changes that have occurred in the circumstances that existed when the measures against the Government in question were adopted, Brazil stated its position quite clearly at the meeting of the Permanent Council in Washington.

For Brazil, the reasons that must inform our decision on whether or not to discontinue the application of the measures related to Resolution I of the Ninth Meeting of Consultation do not depend first and foremost on the international political situation, although we admit--indeed, we could not do otherwise--that conditions prevailing in the world constitute a backdrop for the examination of specific occurrences that, in the final instance, should determine our decision. As Resolution I of the Ninth Meeting of Consultation irrevocably stipulates, these occurrences must in each case be directly related to the behavior of the government that was the object of the measures adopted in 1964, pursuant to the provisions of Article 8 of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance. It is therefore primarily upon the behavior of that government, and our evaluation thereof, as Brazil understands the matter, that we should base the decision whether or not to discontinue the application of the provisions of the aforementioned resolution.

In this respect, no proof whatsoever has been submitted to this Meeting of any substantial change in the behavior of the Government against which the measures were taken. On the contrary, some countries have informed us of recent occurrences that would lead us to the opposite conclusion. More important still: there is not the slightest indication that that government wants the measures to be discontinued or that it is ready to assume any commitment to nonintervention in return for this gesture on the part of the other American governments to create the conditions for dialogue.

That being the case, with circumstances as they are, Brazil did not see how it was possible to support the repeal of Resolution I.

Furthermore, it seems obvious to all that the overriding concern in this Meeting has been, not whether or not to discontinue the measures, but to preserve hemispheric solidarity and to strengthen the inter-American system. For an important number of governments represented here, whether inclined or not to the discontinuation of the measures, repeated failure to comply with a positive obligation of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance would serve to weaken it, which would be contrary to the interests of the hemispheric community.

Brazil understands this concern and shares it. However, it does not believe that the solution to this problem lies in the repeal of a resolution that was not being observed across-the-board. If the provisions of the Rio Treaty need amending or need to be interpreted some

other way in order that they might be better suited to today's world, this is not the forum for doing so. The matter is being studied in Washington by the Special Committee of the OAS and it must be resolved there.

There is no doubt, however, that a possible erosion of the Rio Treaty would weaken the inter-American system itself; this might even be aggravated were a larger number of countries to join those that have already decided to cease complying with a provision of a Treaty that we all signed.

We are still of the opinion that the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, with the amendments necessary to bring it up to date, is a useful and necessary instrument for inter-American relations. Therefore, we would not want a negative vote by Brazil on the proposal under consideration at this Fifteenth Meeting of Consultation to increase the differences that now separate the member governments of this system with respect to the purposes of the Treaty, and thereby help to undermine the Treaty and the Organization of American States itself.

For Brazil, the most important outcome of this Meeting of Consultation will be confirmation of the presence of an even greater determination on the part of the American governments to reaffirm the principles of self-determination and nonintervention, and that there exists among us a genuine desire for understanding and for hemispheric solidarity. These are, in the final analysis, more important than the occasional differences that divide us with respect to the question now under debate. There is also a widely held belief that the problem should be reduced in its proportions so that it does not continue to impair the opportunities for ever increasing cooperation among the countries of the hemisphere.

For all these reasons--seeing on the one hand that the conditions that would justify revocation of Resolution I, as stated in the convocation of this Meeting, have not been met, and on the other hand, that the majority of the governments meeting here, represented by the ministers of states of the countries that compose the inter-American system, seem to be of the opinion that the time has come, collectively, to seek formulas to bring the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance up-to-date, so as to render it more effective and realistic--the Brazilian Government abstains from voting on the proposal submitted to this Meeting of Consultation.

III

STATEMENT MADE BY THE DELEGATION OF CHILE

(Fifth Meeting of the General Committee,
November 12, 1974)

STATEMENT MADE BY THE DELEGATION OF CHILE

The Chilean Delegation has voted against the draft resolution that provided for discontinuing the application of Resolution I adopted at the Ninth Meeting of Consultation since, as I said in my statement during the general debate, Chile considers that the Government of Cuba has continued and continues to intervene in the affairs of other American states. This has been pointed out not only by countries that presented evidence but by the Ministers of several other states as well.

Chile is of the opinion that these repeated acts of intervention on the part of the Cuban Government constitute a threat to peace in the hemisphere and also believes that the measures approved in Resolution I of the Ninth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, although not fully effective, are at least a necessary and advisable deterrent for limiting the aforementioned danger.

I reaffirm Chile's profound faith in the inter-American system and in the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance. I am happy that during the general debate the great majority of the delegation present expressed their desire to strengthen it.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

IV

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF URUGUAY
(Fifth Meeting of the General Committee,
November 12, 1974)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF URUGUAY

Mr. Chairman: For the reasons explained by my Delegation during the general debate, and in light of the evidence submitted by Uruguay's Delegation on the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States acting provisionally as Organ of Consultation, the Republic of Uruguay has voted against the proposal submitted by the Republics of Colombia, Costa Rica, and Venezuela that the application of the measures provided for in Resolution I of the Ninth Meeting of Consultation be discontinued.

On this occasion, Mr. Chairman, I wish only to emphasize a few points, which are no different from those made in Uruguay's earlier statements, but which I feel bear repeating today because of certain statements made in this room to explain other votes. In the opinion of my Delegation, these statements to some extent disregard the points duly made by my country.

Uruguay's position is based entirely on the certain and proven fact of Cuba's continuing acts of intervention in my country's internal affairs, to aid and abet a subversive movement.

The position of Uruguay cannot, therefore, admit the other arguments that have been repeatedly made with regard to political circumstances at the world and hemispheric levels--which certainly must be borne in mind in all matters, including this one, but which neither as a whole nor separately, can in any way diminish the certain and concrete fact of intervention that my Delegation has recounted, and of which it has submitted evidence that is at the disposal of this Meeting.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, I wish to reaffirm that the point Uruguay is making is not merely the assertion of a formalistic juridical concept that refers to certain texts of treaties; it refers instead to the point that in fact, at this Meeting, has become the crux of the disagreement between us. It is both juridical and political: purely and simply put, it is the fact that for some delegations the appropriate conditions now exist for lifting the sanctions against Cuba; for others, such as my own, those conditions do not exist. In the case of my Delegation, they do not exist because of those acts of direct intervention, alleged and proven.

This is the absolute crux of our disagreement, of our difference. It is both a juridical and political question. In this connection, we have not heard in this room a single categorical affirmation that makes it reasonably certain that the threat to peace and security represented by the Cuban Government's continuing acts of intervention no longer exists. All that has happened is that, in the face of the evidence submitted by my Government, speakers have brandished or quoted excerpts from United States newspapers that would contend that the danger has disappeared.

Because of the direct acts of intervention in my country, we still regard Cuba as a threat to the peace and security of the hemisphere. Nothing has been said in this room to dispute this fact. Nor has there been any gesture, any attitude, any movement on the part of the Government of Cuba that might suggest a change or a substantial and genuine shift in that course of conduct.

Therefore, to simply lift the sanctions is absolutely unacceptable to Uruguay. However, as I had occasion to say in my general statement, this is not obstinacy, or visceral hostility toward the Government and people of Cuba. It is simply that the political and juridical process of the inter-American system should provide the guarantees, the conditions and the circumstances that do not exist today for anyone and that in the specific case of my country we have proven do not exist.

With respect to certain statements made in the room, I also wish to point out that the negative vote of three delegations does not in itself represent a veto of the draft resolution submitted by Colombia, Costa Rica, and Venezuela. It is simply that nine member states of this Organization do not share the certainty felt by the states proposing the discontinuation of the measures applied against Cuba. It is therefore not a matter of three votes against the discontinuation of measures, because the outcome would have been the same had these delegations abstained. The prescribed majority would not have been obtained that way either. It is simply that the group of states that have voted in favor of the draft resolution have not obtained the majority required by the Regulations, because nine states were not of the same opinion.

Nor can I ignore the insinuation that the responsibility for the future of the inter-American system is being attributed to the fact that my country in particular, along with others--but each on its own--has voted the way it has. Each country must assume its own share of the responsibility. Each country acts in accordance with its conscience, its laws, and its sovereignty; but it is not the responsibility of one group or another group of countries but of the countries individually in accordance with their acts.

The steps to be taken in the future will be decided, therefore, by each state, and the responsibility is incumbent upon each. Moreover, it is neither possible nor legitimate to request nine countries that do not share the position of the others to join them in order to constitute the required majority. In the opinion of my country, this constitutes the strength of democratic guarantees, i.e., that no one may be compelled to change his opinion and his vote just to join the others and form the required two-thirds majority. All that has happened is that a proposal was submitted and did not obtain the required number of votes. That is all.

For the same reason, I cannot accept the assertion that this position hampers the revitalization of the inter-American system. I believe that the revitalization of the inter-American system will be as easy as the future actions of each of us make it. In this connection, the Government of Uruguay will continue, as it has up to now, to devote all its efforts and its support to the inter-American system, as I said at the beginning of this Meeting, whatever the outcome of the vote may be.

The outcome of the vote will not in any way alter Uruguay's position with regard to the inter-American system, nor its faithful and complete respect for international law and its wholehearted desire to cooperate with all the brother nations represented at this table.

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In WITNESS THEREOF, the Members of the Fifteenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs serving as Organ of Consultation in application of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance sign the present Final Act.

Done in the city of Quito, Ecuador, in the four official languages of the Organization, on November twelve, nineteen hundred seventy-four.

The Secretary General shall deposit the original of the Final Act in the Archives of the General Secretariat in Washington, D.C., which shall transmit certified copies thereof to the governments of the member states signatories to the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance.

FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	(s) Victor Crysostom McIntyre
FOR MEXICO	(s) Emilio O. Rabasa
FOR PERU	(s) Miguel Angel de la Flor Valle
FOR PANAMA	(s) Juan Antonio Tack
FOR THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	(s) Víctor Gómez Bergés
FOR HONDURAS	(s) Ricardo Arturo Pineda Milla
FOR THE UNITED STATES	(s) Robert S. Ingersoll
FOR URUGUAY	(s) Juan Carlos Blanco
FOR GUATEMALA	(s) Adolfo Molina Orantes
FOR CHILE	(s) Patricio Carvajal Prado
FOR COSTA RICA	(s) Gonzalo J. Facio Segreda

FOR PARAGUAY	(s) Raúl Sapena Pastor
FOR BOLIVIA	(s) Alberto Guzmán Soriano
FOR BRAZIL	(s) Antonio Francisco Azeredo da Silveira
FOR ARGENTINA	(s) Antonio J. Benítez
FOR NICARAGUA	(s) Alejandro Montiel Argüello
FOR COLOMBIA	(s) Indalecio Liévano Aguirre
FOR EL SALVADOR	(s) Mauricio Borgonovo Pohl
FOR HAITI	(s) Edner Brutus
FOR VENEZUELA	(s) Efraín Schacht Aristiguieta
FOR ECUADOR	(s) Antonio José Lucio Paredes

FIFTEENTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION
OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
November 8, 1974
Quito, Ecuador

OEA/Ser.F/II.15
Doc.19/74 corr. 1
November 10, 1974
Original: Spanish

DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE DELEGATIONS
OF COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA AND VENEZUELA

WHEREAS:

The Permanent Council of the Organization of American States, by resolution CP/RES. 117 (133/74) of September 20, 1974, which was approved unanimously, convoked this Meeting so that the Organ of Consultation of Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, in strict observance of the principle of nonintervention by a state in the affairs of other states, and bearing in mind the change in the circumstances that existed when the measures against the Government of Cuba were adopted, might decide whether there is justification for discontinuing the application of Resolution I of the Ninth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held in Washington, D.C., in 1964; and

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Special Delegates have stated the positions of their respective governments with regard to the subject matter of the resolution convoking the meeting,

THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
SERVING AS ORGAN OF CONSULTATION IN APPLICATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
TREATY OF RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE

RESOLVES:

1. To discontinue the application of Resolution I of the Ninth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held in Washington, D.C., in 1974.
2. To request the governments of the American states faithfully to observe the principle of nonintervention and to abstain from any act inconsistent therewith.
3. To transmit the next text of the present resolution to the Security Council of the United Nations.