

SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION OF  
MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Washington, D.C., September 21, 1978, to \_\_\_\_\_

Convoked in accordance with the first part  
of Article 59 of the Charter

Note: As of publication of this collection, the Meeting was still  
open.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

For purposes of this collection, only the principal documents published thus far are included, which are the following:

- Doc.0/78  
rev. 2 List of Documents
- Doc.1/78 Convocation
- Doc.19/78 Resolution (approved at the plenary session held on  
rev. 2 September 23, 1978)
- Doc.31/78 Report of the Rapporteur of the General Committee
- Doc.40/78 Resolution II (approved at the seventh plenary session  
rev. 2 held on June 23, 1979)

The other documents from the Meeting are available at the Documents Office of the General Secretariat.

SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION  
OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
September 21, 1978  
Washington, D.C.

OEA/Ser.F/II.17  
Doc.1/78  
20 September 1978  
Original: Spanish

CP/RES. 251 (342/78)

CONVOCAION OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION  
OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

(Resolution adopted by the Permanent Council at its  
meeting on September 18, 1978)

1978 - Fiftieth Anniversary of the Inter-American Commission of Women  
Organization of American States

OEA/Ser.G  
CP/RES. 251 (342/78)  
18 September 1978  
Original: Spanish

CP/RES. 251 (342/78)

CONVOCAION OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION  
OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES,

HAVING SEEN the request by the Government of Venezuela, dated September 2, 1978 (CP/INF.1321/78), and having heard the statements by the representatives of the other member states; and

OBSERVING with profound concern the events that have occurred in Central America, the seriousness of which affects the peace of the region and creates a situation of an urgent nature and of common interest to the member states,

RESOLVES:

1. To convoke, in accordance with the first part of Article 59 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, a Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider the serious events that are occurring in the Central American region.
2. To designate the headquarters of the Permanent Council of the Organization as the site of that Meeting of Consultation, and to set September 21, 1978, as its starting date.
3. To inform the United Nations Security Council of the text of this resolution, in accordance with Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations.

SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION  
OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
September 21, 1978  
Washington, D.C.

OEA/Ser.F/II.17  
Doc.19/78 rev. 2  
23 September 1978  
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION

(Approved at the second plenary session,  
held on September 23, 1978)

WHEREAS:

At its meeting on September 15, 1978, the Permanent Council decided to form an Ad Hoc Committee of Observers to ascertain the facts brought to its attention by the governments of Costa Rica and Nicaragua;

At its meeting on September 18, 1978, the Permanent Council resolved to convoke, in accordance with the first part of Article 59 of the Charter of the Organization, a Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider the serious events in the Central American region;

Those events included regrettable incidents in that region, among them incursions by armed forces of one country into the territory of another, which create a serious risk of international conflict;

The human suffering in Nicaragua and in the border areas of neighboring countries appears to be of such magnitude that urgent humanitarian relief efforts are necessary to mitigate it;

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has accepted the invitation of the Government of Nicaragua to visit that country on October 5; and

Peaceful settlement of international disputes, nonintervention in the internal or external affairs of States, and respect for the fundamental rights of the individual are basic principles of this Organization,

THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the governments directly concerned to refrain from taking any action that might aggravate the present situation.

2. To request the General Secretariat of the Organization to consult with the governments of the region affected, with the International Committee of the Red Cross, with agencies of the United Nations and other intergovernmental humanitarian organizations that are known to be working in the area, to determine what humanitarian assistance is needed to relieve the suffering in that region, and to urge the member states to give urgent and generous support to efforts that will provide such assistance.

3. To request the Permanent Council to submit to this Meeting for examination the report that the Ad Hoc Committee established by resolution CP/RES. 249 (341/78) must submit to that body, and to keep that Committee in existence as long as this Meeting of Consultation remains in session, so that it may fulfill any other mission the Meeting of Consultation may entrust to it.

4. To take note that, having accepted the invitation of the Government of Nicaragua, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights will visit that country, and to express the hope that the Commission may, by agreement with the Government concerned, advance the date of its visit to Nicaragua if possible.

5. To take note that, notwithstanding full observance of the principle of nonintervention, the Government of Nicaragua has stated that it is willing in principle to accept the friendly cooperation and conciliatory efforts that several member states of the Organization may offer to it to establish forthwith the conditions necessary for a peaceful settlement of the situation.

6. To keep the Seventeenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in session as long as the present situation persists.

7. To request the Secretary General of the Organization to keep the Security Council of the United Nations informed of the decisions that the Meeting of Consultation adopts.

SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION OF  
MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
September 21, 1978  
Washington, D.C.

OEA/Ser.F/II.17  
Doc.31/79  
20 June 1979  
Original: Spanish

REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

At the first meeting of the General Committee, its officers were elected. At the proposal of Mexico, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, Admiral Ramón Emilio Jiménez, Jr., was elected Chairman by acclamation. At the proposal of Colombia, seconded by Mexico, the undersigned Rapporteur was elected, also by acclamation.

The General Committee held three meetings, on September 21, 22, and 23.

During the course of the first two meetings, general statements on the subject of the Meeting of Consultation were made by the ministers of foreign affairs of the following countries: Venezuela, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Mexico and Honduras, and by the Special Delegates of the following countries: the United States, Paraguay, Haiti, Peru, Jamaica, Bolivia, and Ecuador.

The Special Delegate of the United States presented a draft resolution at the first meeting. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador presented another draft resolution at the second meeting.

At the end of the second meeting, the Chairman of the General Committee established a Working Group to reconcile the draft resolutions presented by El Salvador and the United States. The Working Group was made up of the delegations of the following member states: Argentina, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, and the United States. Other delegations also participated in the Working Group's proceedings.

On September 23, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Honduras, who was elected Vice Chairman of the Working Group, presented the General Committee with a report on the agreements reached in the Group. He indicated that in the Working Group the Chairman of the General Committee had presented a working paper, which had served as a basis for the preparation of the draft resolution that he was presenting to the General Committee. He explained that in the draft two phrases appeared in brackets, one in operative paragraph 4, ". . . and request the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to prepare a special report on allegations of violations of human rights related to the recent events, which it would submit to this Meeting of Consultation" and another in operative paragraph 5, ". . . and the conciliation efforts", which were the only parts of the draft on which the

Working Group had not reached a consensus. For that reason the Working Group was presenting them to the General Committee for a decision. He added that the rest of the draft had been approved by the Working Group by a consensus.

That same day, September 23, the General Committee examined the draft resolution presented by the Working Group. The Delegation of Panama presented an amendment to replace operative paragraph 3 of the draft with the following: "3. To request the Permanent Council to submit to this Meeting, for examination, the report that the Ad Hoc Committee established by resolution CP/RES. 249 (341/78) is to submit to it, and to keep that Committee functioning so long as the Meeting of Consultation remains in session, for any mission that the latter may entrust to it."

The Delegation of Mexico presented an amendment adding the following to the draft: "6. To deplore and censure the excesses committed in the struggle that has bloodied Nicaraguan soil and to make an appeal to all the combatants not to perpetrate such acts again."

That amendment presented by Mexico would go after operative paragraph 5, and paragraphs 6 and 7 of the draft would then be numbered 7 and 8, respectively.

The Delegation of Barbados proposed an amendment to be inserted in operative paragraph 2, ". . . the Red Cross, the agencies of the United Nations, and other intergovernmental organizations that are known to be working in the area."

The Delegation of Jamaica presented an amendment to replace the phrase in brackets in operative paragraph 4 when the latter was not accepted by the General Committee. Its text was: ". . . request the Commission to advise the Seventeenth Meeting of Consultation with respect to the alleged violations of human rights in relation to the recent events."

First the amendment replacing operative paragraph 3 was approved by a consensus. A roll-call vote was taken on the phrases in brackets in operative paragraphs 4 and 5 and on the other proposed amendments. The outcome was as follows:

- Operative paragraph 4, phrase in brackets: 10 in favor, 3 opposed, 11 abstentions. The phrase was not approved.
- Operative paragraph 5, phrase in brackets: 17 in favor, none opposed, 7 abstentions. The phrase was approved.
- Amendment by way of an addition proposed by Mexico: 16 in favor, one opposed, 7 abstentions. The amendment was approved.



- Amendment proposed by Barbados: 24 votes in favor. The amendment was approved.
- Amendment proposed by Jamaica: 12 votes in favor, one opposed, eleven abstentions.

The Committee then went on to decide on the rest of the text of the draft resolution. First it was considered paragraph by paragraph on a consensus basis, that being understood as the absence of active opposition. In this way, each of the paragraphs was approved. Finally, using the same consensus procedure, the whole text of the draft resolution was approved.

When it was being approved paragraph by paragraph, the Delegation of Paraguay stated that it was abstaining with respect to paragraph 5 of the preamble and operative paragraphs 4 and 5. The Delegation of Uruguay abstained with respect to operative paragraph 4. Both delegations later explained the reasons for their abstentions.

The Special Delegate of Trinidad and Tobago did not participate in the voting, for reasons that he later explained.

Finally, the delegations of the following countries gave explanations of their votes: Mexico, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, the United States, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru, Jamaica, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, and Honduras.

The explanations of votes appear in the verbatim minutes of the General Committee. It was agreed that those verbatim minutes would be presented to the Plenary of the Meeting of Consultation, to serve as an explanation of the votes.

September 23, 1978

Alejandro Gordillo  
Delegate of Peru  
Rapporteur of the General Committee

SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION  
OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
September 21, 1978  
Washington, D.C.

OEA/Ser.F/II.17  
Doc.40/79 rev. 2  
23 June 1979  
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION II

(Approved at the seventh plenary session,  
held on June 23, 1979)

WHEREAS:

The people of Nicaragua are experiencing the horrors of a fierce armed conflict that is causing immeasurable suffering and extensive loss of life, and has thrown the country into a serious political, social, and economic upheaval;

The inhumane conduct of the dictatorial regime governing the country, as evidenced by the report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, is the fundamental cause of the dramatic situation faced by the Nicaraguan people, and

The spirit of solidarity that guides hemispheric relations makes it incumbent upon the American countries to exert every effort within their power to put an end to the bloodshed and to prevent the protraction of this conflict from disrupting the peace of the hemisphere;

THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DECLARES:

That the solution of the serious problem is exclusively within the jurisdiction of the people of Nicaragua.

That in the view of the Seventeenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs this solution should be arrived at on the basis of the following:

1. Immediate and definitive replacement of the Somoza regime.
2. Establishment, within Nicaraguan territory, of a democratic government, the composition of which should include the principal groups representative of the Somoza regime's opposition and should reflect the free will of the people of Nicaragua.

3. Guarantee of the respect for human rights of all Nicaraguans without exception.
4. The holding of free elections as soon as possible, that will lead to the establishment of a truly democratic government that guarantees peace, freedom, and justice.

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the member states to take whatever steps within their reach to facilitate an enduring and peaceful solution to the Nicaraguan problem on the bases set forth above, while scrupulously respecting the principle of nonintervention and abstaining from any action that might be at odds with the above bases or be incompatible with a peaceful and lasting solution to the problem.

2. To commit their efforts to promote humanitarian assistance to the people of Nicaragua and to contribute to the country's social and economic recovery.

3. To keep the Seventeenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs open so long as the present situation persists.

DECIMOSEPTIMA REUNION DE CONSULTA DE  
MINISTROS DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES.  
21 de septiembre de 1978  
Washington, D.C.

OEA/Ser.F/II.17  
Doc.0/78 rev. 2  
30 diciembre 1979  
Original: español

LISTA DE DOCUMENTOS REGISTRADOS POR SECRETARIA  
HASTA EL 30 DE DICIEMBRE DE 1979

<u>Documento</u>	<u>Título</u> <sup>1/</sup>	<u>Idioma</u> <sup>2/</sup>
Doc.1/78	Convocación de la Decimoséptima Reunión de Consulta de Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores (Resolución aprobada por el Consejo Permanente en la sesión celebrada el 18 de septiembre de 1978) CP/RES. 251 (342/78)	E I F P
Doc.2/78	Orden del día, Jueves 21 de septiembre de 1978	E I F P
Doc.3/78	Proyecto de calendario para la Decimoséptima Reunión de Consulta de Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores (aprobado por el Consejo Permanente en la sesión extraordinaria celebrada el 18 de septiembre de 1978)	E I F P
Doc.3/78 rev. 1	Calendario para la Decimoséptima Reunión de Consulta de Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores (aprobado en la sesión de apertura celebrada el 21 de septiembre de 1978)	E I F P
Doc.4/78	Invitación al Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas para que se haga representar en la Decimoséptima Reunión de Consulta de Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores	E I F P
Doc.5/78	Proyecto de temario de la Decimoséptima Reunión de Consulta de Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores	E I F P

1. Títulos registrados en el idioma original.  
2. E = español; I = inglés; F = francés; P = portugués.

<u>Documento</u>	<u>Título</u>	<u>Idioma</u>
Doc.5/78 rev. 1	Temario de la Decimoséptima Reunión de Consulta de Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores (aprobado en la sesión de apertura celebrada el 21 de septiembre de 1978)	E I F P
Doc.6/78	Proyecto de Reglamento de la Decimoséptima Reunión de Consulta de Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores	E I F P
Doc.6/78	Reglamento de la Decimoséptima Reunión de Consulta de Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores (aprobado en la sesión de apertura celebrada el 21 de septiembre de 1978)	E I F P
Doc.7/78	Orden de precedencia de los miembros de la Reunión	E I F P
Doc.8/78	Acta de la sesión preliminar celebrada el 21 de septiembre de 1978	Textual
Doc.9/78	Acta de la sesión preliminar celebrada el 21 de septiembre de 1978	Textual
Doc.10/78	Orden del día - Viernes 22 de septiembre de 1978	E I F P
Doc.10/78 rev. 1	Orden del día - Viernes 22 de septiembre de 1978	E I
Doc.11/78	Proyecto de resolución presentado por la Delegación de los Estados Unidos	E I F P
Doc.12/78	Acta de la primera sesión de la Comisión General	Textual
Doc.13/78	Lista de participantes (provisional)	E
Doc.13/78 rev. 1	Lista de participantes	E
Doc.13/78 rev. 2	Lista de participantes	E
Doc.13/78 rev. 3	Lista de participantes	E

<u>Documento</u>	<u>Título</u>	<u>Idioma</u>
Doc.13/78 rev. 4	Lista de participantes	E
Doc.14/78	Proyecto de resolución (Presentado por la Delegación de El Salvador)	E I F P
Doc.15/78	Mesa directiva de la Reunión de Consulta	E I F P
Doc.15/78 rev. 1	Mesa directiva de la Reunión de Consulta	E I F P
Doc.16/78	Informe de la Comisión de Credenciales	E I F P
Doc.17/78	Acta de la segunda sesión de la Comisión General	Textual
Doc.17/78 corr. 1	Acta de la segunda sesión de la Comisión General	Textual
Doc.18/78	Orden del día - Sábado 23 de septiembre, 1978	E I F P
Doc.18/78 rev. 1	Orden del día - Sábado 23 de septiembre, 1978	E
Doc.18/78 rev. 2	Orden del día - Sábado 23 de septiembre, 1978	E
Doc.19/78	Proyecto de resolución (Preparado por el Grupo de Trabajo integrado por las delegaciones de Honduras (Presidente), Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estados Unidos, República Dominicana, Jamaica y México)	E I F P
Doc.19/78 rev. 1	Proyecto de resolución (Aprobado por la Comisión General en la tercera sesión celebrada el 23 de septiembre de 1978)	E I F P
Doc.19/78 rev. 2	Proyecto de resolución (Aprobado en la segunda sesión celebrada el 23 de septiembre de 1978)	E I F P
Doc.20/78	Documento de trabajo (Presentado por el Presidente de la Comisión General)	E I F P
Doc.21/78	Acta de la tercera sesión de la Comisión General celebrada el 23 de septiembre de 1978	Textual

<u>Documento</u>	<u>Título</u>	<u>Idioma</u>
Doc.21/78 corr. 1	Acta de la tercera sesión de la Comisión General celebrada el 23 de septiembre de 1978	Textual
Doc.22/78	Acta de la segunda sesión plenaria celebrada el 23 de septiembre de 1978	Textual
Doc.23/78	Informe sobre la situación de los Derechos Humanos en Nicaragua aprobado por la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos en su cuadragésimo período de sesiones	E I P
Doc.24/78	Nota del Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Nicaragua relativa a las observaciones y comentarios del informe de la CIDH sobre los Derechos Humanos en Nicaragua	E I
Doc.25/78	Convocatoria para el lunes 18 de diciembre de 1978	E I
Doc.26/78	Acta de la tercera sesión plenaria lunes 18 de diciembre de 1978 a las 11:30 a.m.	Textual
Doc.27/79	Nota del Embajador Representante de Nicaragua en la que solicita la distribución de la nota que enviara al Presidente de la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos en la cual se refiere al documento OEA/Ser.L/V/II.45 doc.16 rev. 1 "Informe sobre la situación de los Derechos Humanos en Nicaragua"	E I F P
Doc.28/79	Convocatoria para la sesión de la XVII Reunión de Consulta de Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores, miércoles 20 de junio de 1979, 3:00 p.m.	E I F P
Doc.28/79 rev. 1	Convocatoria para la sesión de la XVII Reunión de Consulta de Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores, jueves 21 de junio de 1979 3:00 p.m. (Aviso posponiendo la reunión anterior)	E I F P
Doc.29/79	Cablegrama del Presidente de la Decimoséptima Reunión de Consulta de Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores al Presidente del Consejo Permanente referente a la sesión que se celebrará el miércoles 20 de junio de 1979	E I

<u>Documento</u>	<u>Título</u>	<u>Idioma</u>
Doc.30/79	Orden del día - 21 de junio de 1979	E I F P
Doc.31/79	Informe del Relator de la Comisión General	E I F P
Doc.32/79	Nota del Embajador de Nicaragua por la que transmite al Presidente de la Reunión el deseo de su Gobierno de exhibir algunas de las armas capturadas a los terroristas	E I
Doc.33/79	Draft resolution - Submitted by the Delegation of the United States	E I F P
Doc.34/79	Segundo Informe de Credenciales	E I
Doc.35/79	Nota del Presidente de la CIDH relativa al Informe de dicha Comisión sobre los Derechos Humanos en Nicaragua	E I F P
Doc.36/79	Orden del día - 22 de junio de 1979	E I F P
Doc.36/79 rev. 1	Orden del día - 22 de junio de 1979	E I F P
Doc.37/79	Principios que orientan la posición de Jamaica	E I F P
Doc.38/79	Orden del día - 23 de junio de 1979	E I
Doc.38/79 rev. 1	Orden del día - 23 de junio de 1979	E I
Doc.39/79	Acta de la CUARTA SESION PLENARIA celebrada el 21 de junio de 1979	Textual
Doc.40/79	Proyecto de resolución - (Presentado por las delegaciones de Barbados, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Grenada, Honduras, Jamaica, México, Panamá, Perú, República Dominicana y Venezuela)	E I F P
Doc.40/79 rev. 1	Proyecto de resolución - (Presentado por las delegaciones de Barbados, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Grenada, Honduras, Jamaica, México, República Dominicana, Suriname y Venezuela)	E I F P



<u>Documento</u>	<u>Título</u>	<u>Idioma</u>
Doc.40/79 rev. 1 corr. 1	Proyecto de resolución - (Presentado por las delegaciones de Barbados, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Estados Unidos, Grenada, Jamaica, México, Perú, República Dominicana, Suriname y Venezuela)	E I F P
Doc.40/79 rev. 2	RESOLUCION II - (Aprobada en la séptima sesión plenaria celebrada el 23 de junio de 1979)	E I F P
Doc.41/79	Acta de la QUINTA SESION PLENARIA celebrada el 22 de junio de 1979	Textual
Doc.42/79	Acta de la SEXTA SESION PLENARIA celebrada el 22 de junio de 1979	Textual
Doc.43/79	Acta de la SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA celebrada el 22 de junio de 1979	Textual