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ACTA  
DE LA SESIÓN ORDINARIA  
CELEBRADA  
EL 17 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 1999

Aprobada en la sesión del 24 de marzo de 2000

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DOCUMENTOS CONSIDERADOS EN LA SESIÓN  
(SE PUBLICAN POR SEPARADO)

CP/doc.3246/99, Candidatura para vacante en la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos

CP/doc.3250/99, Nota de la Secretaría General sobre la situación financiera del Fondo Regular

CP/doc.3243/99, Informe de la Secretaría General sobre la ejecución presupuestaria de 1999 y las transferencias de apropiaciones entre capítulos del Fondo Regular - 1 de enero al 30 de septiembre de 1999

CP/doc.3241/99, Informe de la Secretaría General sobre el estado de cuotas y contribuciones voluntarias al 30 de septiembre de 1999

CP/doc.3248/99, Recaudación de cuotas al 31 de octubre de 1999

CP/doc.3240/99, Informe de la Secretaría General sobre las actividades de la Unidad para la Promoción de la Democracia - Segundo trimestre de 1999

CP/doc.3249/99, Informe de la Secretaría General sobre las actividades de la Unidad de Comercio correspondiente al período 1 de enero - 30 de junio de 1999

## CONSEJO PERMANENTE DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS

### ACTA DE LA SESIÓN ORDINARIA CELEBRADA EL 17 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 1999

En la ciudad de Washington, a las tres y media de la tarde del miércoles 17 de noviembre de 1999, celebró sesión ordinaria el Consejo Permanente de la Organización de los Estados Americanos. Presidió la sesión el Embajador Courtney Blackman, Representante Permanente de Barbados y Presidente del Consejo Permanente. Asistieron los siguientes miembros:

Embajador Diego Abente Brun, Representante Permanente del Paraguay y Vicepresidente del Consejo Permanente

Embajador Lawrence Chewing Fábrega, Representante Permanente de Panamá

Embajador Richard Bernal, Representante Permanente de Jamaica

Embajador M.A. Odeen Ishmael, Representante Permanente de Guyana

Embajadora Beatriz M. Ramacciotti, Representante Permanente del Perú

Embajador Denis G. Antoine, Representante Permanente de Grenada

Embajador Osbert W. Liburd, Representante Permanente de Saint Kitts y Nevis

Embajador Lionel Alexander Hurst, Representante Permanente de Antigua y Barbuda

Embajador Mauricio Granillo Barrera, Representante Permanente de El Salvador

Embajador James Schofield Murphy, Representante Permanente de Belice

Embajador Flavio Darío Espinal, Representante Permanente de la República Dominicana

Embajador Carlos Portales, Representante Permanente de Chile

Embajador Peter M. Boehm, Representante Permanente del Canadá

Embajador Alfonso Quiñónez Lemus, Representante Permanente de Guatemala

Embajador Carlos Alberto Leite Barbosa, Representante Permanente del Brasil

Embajador Claude Heller, Representante Permanente de México

Embajador Julio César Aráoz, Representante Permanente de la Argentina

Embajador Hernán R. Castro H., Representante Permanente de Costa Rica

Embajador Patricio Vivanco, Representante Permanente del Ecuador

Embajador Álvaro Sevilla Siero, Representante Permanente de Nicaragua

Embajadora Virginia Margarita Contreras Navarrete, Representante Permanente de Venezuela

Consejera Natasha Halfhuid, Representante Interina de Suriname

Embajador Álvaro Moerzinger, Representante Interino del Uruguay

Ministra Consejera Cecily Norris, Representante Alterna de San Vicente y las Granadinas

Consejera Sheila G. Carey, Representante Alterna del Commonwealth de las Bahamas

Consejera Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, Representante Alterna de Trinidad y Tobago

Consejero Aurelio Tobón Estrada, Representante Alterno de Colombia

Embajador Ronald D. Godard, Representante Alterno de los Estados Unidos

Ministro Consejero Alberto Quiroga García, Representante Alterno de Bolivia

Primera Secretaria Martha Louis Auguste, Representante Alterna de Santa Lucía

Primer Secretario Philip St. Hill, Representante Alterno de Barbados

Ministro Consejero Michael Wallace, Representante Alterno del Commonwealth de Dominica

Consejera Katyna Argueta, Representante Alterna de Honduras

También estuvo presente el Secretario General Adjunto, Embajador Christopher R. Thomas, Secretario del Consejo Permanente.

El PRESIDENTE: I am pleased to call to order this regular meeting of the Permanent Council, convened to consider the items on the order of business, document CP/OD.1211/99.

[El orden del día contiene los siguientes puntos:

1. Candidaturas para vacante en la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos (CP/doc.3246/99)
2. Informe sobre la situación financiera de la OEA
  - Nota de la Secretaría General sobre la situación financiera del Fondo Regular (CP/doc.3250/99)
3. Informe de la Secretaría General sobre la ejecución presupuestaria de 1999 y la transferencia de apropiaciones entre Capítulos del Fondo Regular - 1 de enero al 30 de septiembre de 1999 (CP/doc.3243/99)
4. Informe de la Secretaría General sobre el estado de cuotas y contribuciones voluntarias al 30 de septiembre de 1999 (CP/doc.3241/99)
5. Recaudación de cuotas al 31 de octubre de 1999 (CP/doc.3248/99)
6. Informe de la Secretaría General sobre las actividades de la Unidad para la Promoción de la Democracia - Segundo trimestre de 1999 (CP/doc.3240/99)
7. Informe oral del Jefe de la Misión de Observación Electoral en Guatemala
8. Informe de la Secretaría General sobre las actividades de la Unidad de Comercio correspondiente al período del 1 de enero al 30 de junio de 1999 (CP/doc.3249/99)
9. Aprobación del acta de la sesión celebrada el 13 de septiembre de 1999 (CP/ACTA 1199/99)
10. Otros asuntos.]

Some members of the Council are under the impression that the Chair was late. If those members would look at the order of business, they would see that the time set for the meeting is 3:30 p.m., so we're bang on time.

#### SUSCRIPCIÓN DEL ACTA DE EJECUCIÓN DEL TRATADO DE LIMA DE 1929 ENTRE PERÚ Y CHILE

El PRESIDENTE: Before we begin to deal with the items on our order of business, I have great pleasure in congratulating the governments of Chile and Peru and their permanent representatives on having recently signed the Document of Implementation of the Treaty of Lima of 1929 between Peru and Chile. With this act, these two states have achieved a satisfactory conclusion

of all pending matters between them after 70 years of negotiations. I have been requested by the ambassadors of Chile and Peru to say a few words, and I have so agreed.

I now call on the distinguished Representative of Peru.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL PERÚ: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Distinguidos colegas, Embajadoras y Embajadores:

Tengo el día de hoy el honor y el gratísimo encargo de poner en conocimiento de este Consejo Permanente que en una ceremonia especial realizada en la ciudad de Lima el pasado 13 de noviembre, los Gobiernos del Perú y Chile suscribieron el Acta de Ejecución del Tratado de Lima de 1929 que, después de setenta años, pone fin a los asuntos pendientes de dicho Tratado en forma satisfactoria para ambos países.

El Acta, firmada en el Palacio de Gobierno por los Cancilleres Juan Gabriel Valdés y Fernando de Trazegnies respectivamente, que contó con la presencia del Presidente Alberto Fujimori, se refiere a la entrega de las obras construidas por Chile en el Puerto de Arica para el servicio del Perú y al establecimiento del régimen jurídico que permitirá que nuestro país pueda ejercer plenamente los derechos que le corresponden de acuerdo con el Tratado de Lima y con su Protocolo Complementario.

Este acontecimiento histórico, en verdad histórico, es una clara demostración del profundo compromiso de ambos pueblos y gobiernos con la causa de la paz y de la firme voluntad política de los Presidentes Eduardo Frei y Alberto Fujimori, que ha hecho posible alcanzar un entendimiento que permitirá enfrentar conjuntamente los desafíos del nuevo milenio sobre las bases de un futuro compartido de integración, cooperación, paz y desarrollo.

Es sumamente significativo, señor Presidente, que el Morro de Arica, signo por mucho tiempo de desconfianza y recelo mutuo, se convertirá en un símbolo de paz y amistad, desprovisto de cualquier elemento de antagonismo, que no tiene razón alguna de existir en el umbral del siglo XXI. Allí será erigido próximamente el Cristo de la Concordia, que representará el espíritu de paz existente y la nueva etapa que caracteriza las relaciones bilaterales.

Esta nueva etapa, sin duda alguna, contribuirá a dinamizar la economía de la región y a impulsar decididamente la integración, el comercio y el desarrollo fronterizo, y estamos seguros de que coadyuvará a mejorar sustancialmente el nivel de vida de los pobladores de esa zona.

Señor Presidente, una vez más mi Gobierno reafirma con hechos concretos su firme compromiso con los propósitos y principios de la Carta de nuestra Organización, que inspiran nuestra acción internacional.

Muchas gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Ambassador. I now call on the distinguished Representative of Chile.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE CHILE: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Me es también muy grato informar a este Consejo Permanente de este nuevo paso en la consolidación de

los vínculos de paz y hermandad entre Estados Miembros de la OEA, acorde con los propósitos y principios de la Carta de la Organización.

Como señalara la Embajadora Ramacciotti, el sábado recién pasado, en solemne ceremonia realizada en Lima, los Cancilleres de Chile y Perú, Juan Gabriel Valdés y Fernando de Trazegnies, suscribieron un Acta de Ejecución para finiquitar los aspectos pendientes del Tratado de 1929 entre Chile y Perú. El acto fue realizado con la participación del señor Presidente del Perú.

Chile y Perú concluyeron así las negociaciones de un Acta de Ejecución del Artículo 5° del Tratado de 1929 y Segundo de su Protocolo Complementario. Estos establecieron las obligaciones que Chile asumía de construir a su costo y poner al servicio del Perú un malecón de atraque para vapores de calado en la bahía de Arica, un edificio para la agencia aduanera peruana y una estación terminal para el ferrocarril a Tacna. En estos establecimientos y zonas, el comercio de tránsito del Perú goza de la independencia propia del más amplio puerto libre.

Ambos países estuvieron de acuerdo en que la ejecución de estas cláusulas en cumplimiento de obligaciones pactadas hace setenta años debía hacerse mediante un acta que recogiera los principios generales aplicables, garantizara los derechos previstos en el Tratado de 1929 y desarrollara los aspectos operacionales fundamentales que permitieran la puesta en funcionamiento de los establecimientos y zonas.

Debe recordarse asimismo que, por el Tratado de 1929, el Perú goza del derecho de servidumbre en la parte que el ferrocarril Arica-Tacna atraviesa territorio chileno, sin perjuicio de la soberanía chilena.

Las obras ya estaban construidas desde hace varios años. El Acta de Ejecución permitirá culminar la entrega, la que se hará dentro un plazo máximo de noventa días durante el cual se harán reparaciones y remozamiento de las obras.

Empresas peruanas administrarán los establecimientos y zonas. La administración de las obras, así como el más absoluto libre tránsito pactado en 1929, se ejercerán con sujeción al ordenamiento jurídico chileno y las actividades que se realicen en este marco se someterán a la jurisdicción de los tribunales de Chile, teniendo en cuenta el pleno respeto al Tratado de 1929, su Protocolo Complementario y el Acta recién suscrita.

También se prevé la cooperación entre las aduanas chilena y peruana en caso de actos ilícitos, lo cual es especialmente importante para la prevención y el control del tráfico de drogas.

Hay plena coincidencia en la necesidad de resguardar los patrimonios fitosanitario y zoonosanitario de Arica y Tacna, mediante la aplicación de los estándares de protección vigentes y la posibilidad de aplicar las medidas correspondientes.

Con este histórico acuerdo, los Presidentes Eduardo Frei y Alberto Fujimori están demostrando su firme voluntad de iniciar una nueva etapa en la relación bilateral. Como símbolo de este nuevo espíritu esperamos la próxima visita de Estado que el Presidente del Perú realizará a Chile.

De esta manera Chile y Perú, dando pleno cumplimiento al derecho internacional, se unen con el propósito común de enfrentar los desafíos del nuevo siglo redoblando esfuerzos y abriendo

nuevos caminos de cooperación y confianza mutua para el desarrollo económico y social de sus pueblos y el aporte mancomunado hacia el proceso de integración hemisférica.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Ambassador. I'm sure that all members of this Council would wish me to congratulate Chile and Peru on achieving this tremendous landmark and to wish them very well in the future.

#### CANDIDATURA PARA VACANTE EN LA COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DE DERECHOS HUMANOS

El PRESIDENTE: The first item on the order of business is the candidacy for a vacancy on the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), document CP/doc.3246/99.

On September 17, 1999, the Chair of the IACHR informed the General Secretariat of the resignation of member Sir Henry Forde, whose term would have expired on December 31, 2001. In a note dated September 29, 1999, the Secretary General informed the member states of the vacancy. Only one candidacy—that of Dr. Peter Laurie, nominated by the Government of Barbados—was received at the expiration of the 30-day period stipulated in Article 11 of the Commission's Statute.

If there are no observations, the Chair suggests that this election be by acclamation. [Aplausos.]

May I use the prerogative of the Chair to act as if I am representing Barbados and to thank the Council for their support of the candidacy of Dr. Laurie. Many of you would have known Dr. Laurie, who served as Barbados' Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States some years ago and returned to Barbados to be Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He retired from that position earlier this year. So Dr. Laurie has served Barbados very well.

In my personal opinion, he is certainly one of our most distinguished contemporary public servants. He brings to the Commission a tremendous experience and knowledge of the Organization and its workings and a great intellect. I have no doubt that he will serve in this capacity very ably and to your satisfaction.

On behalf of the Government of Barbados, once again, I thank you for giving us the opportunity to continue in this office and to say a word about Sir Henry. The Chairman of the Commission has indicated to me his regret at the resignation of Sir Henry Forde, who has been forced to do so as a result of a tremendous demand on his services, both domestically and within the region. He has been called upon to carry out a very important task, having been a foreign minister of Barbados, attorney general, and leader of the opposition, and he simply could not continue as a member of the Commission any long. So, thank you once again.



## INFORME DE LA SECRETARÍA GENERAL SOBRE LA SITUACIÓN FINANCIERA DEL FONDO REGULAR

El PRESIDENTE: The next item is the report of the General Secretariat on the financial situation of the Regular Fund, document CP/doc.3250/99. I'm pleased to give the floor now to Mr. James Harding, the Assistant Secretary for Management, to inform us of any developments in this area.

El SUBSECRETARIO DE ADMINISTRACIÓN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Secretary General, I am pleased to provide this Permanent Council with a brief update on the financial situation of the Regular Fund. As I do so, I would like to point out that many of the details are contained in items to be considered by the Permanent Council later during this meeting. These include specific objects of expenses or subprograms of the Organization, as well as updates on quotas and voluntary contributions.

Since the October 25 meeting of the Permanent Council, the General Secretariat has received the following Regular Fund quota payments: The Bahamas, \$13,075; Honduras, \$1,574; Suriname, \$52,300; and the United States, \$3,250,000. This is about \$3.3 million in additional resources and quota payments to the Organization.

The available cash balance, as of November 15, is approximately \$5.6 million. This level of cash was achieved in two ways: by the contributions I just mentioned and by postponing the payment of a number of our bills during the last few weeks. This level of cash should be sufficient to pay the Regular Fund salaries through the month of November and some of our deferred and other nonpersonnel expenses, and this should take us into early December. However, there are not sufficient funds to ensure meeting the Organization's Regular Fund financial commitments through December of this year or beyond.

While the General Secretariat has not received formal notification of any changes to the payment plans presented by member states, the Secretary General has personally contacted ministers of foreign affairs and other government officials at appropriate levels in several states. Additionally, I had the pleasure of assisting a member state in drafting a revised payment plan.

I am pleased to report, Mr. Chairman, that within the General Secretariat, the Office of the Secretary General is personally reviewing the urgency of every trip sponsored by the Regular Fund, as well as any CPR that is up for renewal or any new CPR.

Mr. Chairman, this is the situation of the Regular Fund. We can pay salaries and some of our bills through November. We have inadequate resources for the remainder of the year, and I've highlighted those in the earlier reports that you have considered. Additional details on quotas, payments, and status are provided in later documents.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Mr. Harding. I now open the floor for observations. I have great pleasure in giving the floor to the distinguished Representative of Mexico.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Agradezco la información proporcionada por la Secretaría y que de hecho es el cumplimiento de una solicitud que habíamos formulado con el apoyo de otras delegaciones. Creo que es una información muy clara, muy precisa, y sobre todo indica la gravedad de la situación financiera por la que atraviesa nuestra Organización.

Es muy evidente que es una organización que vive prácticamente al día. En ese sentido, creo que será muy importante que este tema figure de manera regular en la agenda del Consejo Permanente. Pido formalmente que la Secretaría informe periódicamente al Consejo de la evolución de este tema para, en algún momento, tomar las medidas apropiadas. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. The distinguished Representative of Canada has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL CANADÁ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I, too, would like to thank the Assistant Secretary for Management for his concise report and his rather bleak assessment of where the Organization might be by December or January of next year.

My delegation is relieved that the United States, Honduras, Suriname, and The Bahamas have come up with some of the monies owed to the Organization for this fiscal year and that this will allow the Secretariat to meet its payroll through November. We also appreciate the efforts of other member states to meet their commitments through the negotiation of workable payment plans.

Mr. Chairman, the financial crises in this organization have become an annual event that threatens the effectiveness and credibility of the OAS. Indeed, the situation is serious, and I agree with the suggestion by my distinguished colleague from Mexico that this item should be put on the Permanent Council's agenda repeatedly because of the gravity of the situation.

The solution to the problem at hand is the elusive Option 5. If we look back at the original paper presented by the Secretariat, that option was so obvious that it did not even warrant mention in the discussion paper. Member states need to pay their debts to the Organization in a timely manner.

As Ambassador Heller said at a recent meeting, it's also important that the Secretary General have a clear mandate to negotiate with member states, on behalf of the Organization, at the highest levels. We certainly support this role for the Secretary General and are encouraged that he has made representations at high levels to member states.

Membership has its responsibilities, Mr. Chairman, and rights flow directly from these responsibilities. The United Nations, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and other inter-American organizations and specialized agencies effectively use incentives, such as the loss of vote, to encourage the payment of quotas. Our own Special Multilateral Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (FEMCIDI) has a clause in its statute that prohibits the disbursement of funds to states that are in arrears. The result is that all active members of the voluntary funds are fully paid up. This is not coincidental.

We regret that some member states find themselves in particularly difficult financial situations that are completely beyond their control. But we must ask ourselves, however, as a Council with the best interests of this organization at heart: Why do countries pay at other organizations, but not at our own? And as a Council, we need to address the fundamental reasons why some of the contributors do not pay their debts even though they receive a great deal from the OAS in all areas.

We also need to ask ourselves why the negotiation of a payment plan appears to be so difficult for states to complete. If a state is in such difficult financial straits, then it must at the very least agree with the Secretariat on a payment plan that would demonstrate responsible political commitment to this organization.

The financial crisis at the OAS, while caused largely by the nonpayment of quotas, is exacerbated by late payment of quotas by many member states. The problem, as Mr. Harding has indicated, is a quintessential cash flow problem. While most states pay their annual quotas before the end of the year, they give no indication to the Secretariat when they're going to pay. All states should therefore have a transparent payment plan in place with the Secretariat so that all parties know precisely how much money is available in any given month. This will allow the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP) and Assistant Secretary Harding to properly plan for the coming year.

Due to the systemic nature of the problem of quota arrears and the crippling effect it has on the ability of the OAS to fulfill the mandate given it by member states, my delegation will be pushing over the next several months to see the establishment of further incentives, such as the loss of voting privileges for countries in arrears for two or more years. This mechanism exists in the UN system and is entrenched in that organization's Charter. Other incentives to encourage countries to pay include the loss of the privilege of chairing committees of the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI; the loss of the privilege of hosting OAS meetings; limited access to the fellowship program; and the loss of the right to field candidates for elections. This should not come as any surprise; I said the same thing in my inaugural address over two years ago.

If the same fiscal crisis arises again next year or at a time when matters become very critical due to the failure to rectify the situation through responsible payment of quotas by all member states, my delegation would resist efforts to seek Band-Aid solutions, such as the proposal by the Secretariat to seek lines of credit. Due to interest, such solutions only add to the Organization's debt. We would rather see OAS operations stop due to a lack of resources. The responsibility for such an extraordinary situation would rest clearly with those member states that are in arrears.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. I give the floor to the distinguished Representative of the United States.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. My delegation is very pleased that we were able to join with the delegations of The Bahamas, Honduras, and Suriname in providing sufficient funding to get the Organization out of the immediate financial crisis. It was not an easy maneuver, in the case of my government, to obtain these funds. My government, however, was able to respond. We recognize that our payment is certainly not a solution to the OAS's perennial financial crisis, but there is wide recognition within

the U.S. Government of the importance of this organization, and we're very pleased to have been able to obtain this short-term financing.

We're also quite hopeful, Mr. Chairman, that our appropriations process will this week resolve the problem and we'll be able to make the rest of our fourth quarter payment very shortly.

We also know that this crisis is not over, as noted by the delegations of Mexico and Canada, and that this will happen again, as it has in prior years, unless we all work together to place the OAS on a healthy financial footing. My delegation would welcome a regular review in this body of the financial status of the Organization and an examination of possible solutions to the recurring financial crises.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

EL PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. I recognize the distinguished Representative of Peru.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DEL PERÚ: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Quisiera expresar, en primer lugar, la complacencia de mi Delegación al conocer que la situación crítica que estamos enfrentando ha sido superada. Sin embargo, es evidente que deberemos buscar soluciones de largo plazo para evitar situaciones como las que hemos estado enfrentando en los últimos meses.

Mi país, señor Presidente, ha venido cumpliendo escrupulosamente con los compromisos asumidos en el calendario de pagos que fue acordado con la Secretaría General en el año 1996. Me complace anunciar en esta oportunidad que en los próximos días estaremos haciendo entrega de \$223.000 que nos permitirán mantenernos al día en el cumplimiento de nuestro calendario.

Gracias, señor Presidente.

EL PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much.

Since there are no other requests for the floor, the Chair suggests that the Council take due note of the report from Mr. Harding. Thank you very much, Mr. Harding.

#### INFORME DE LA SECRETARÍA GENERAL SOBRE LA EJECUCIÓN PRESUPUESTARIA DE 1999 Y LA TRANSFERENCIA DE APROPIACIONES ENTRE CAPÍTULO DEL FONDO REGULAR - 1 DE ENERO AL 30 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 1999

EL PRESIDENTE: Item 3 refers to the report of the General Secretariat on the 1999 budget execution and transfers of appropriations between chapters of the Regular Fund from January 1 to September 30, 1999. Once again, I give the floor to Mr. James Harding to educate us on this item.

EL SUBSECRETARIO DE ADMINISTRACIÓN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a quarterly report we provide to the Council on the transfers between chapters and expenditures. This report is as of September 30. Many of the things you already know about, and so I'm not going to highlight all of them.

What I would like to highlight, however, is almost a continuation of the previous item. Would those who have it be kind enough to turn to Annex I, which is on page 3 or 4 of the report? It's entitled "Status on Budget Execution: Approved Budget vs. Actuals for Third Quarter." We have been living pretty much off of arrears—off the cash that is coming in—not exactly on the payment of current year quotas. The quotas for the year were \$73 million. We had plan to receive \$55 million by the end of the third quarter, but we only received \$24 million in actual payments for this year. The remainder of the payments that we received were for arrears. So, in the current year, we've been \$30 million short in quotas. As a result, we have not been able to execute, through arrears, a number of the programs that member states have approved through the use of arrears in prior years.

On the expenditure side, there's some relatively good news in that the Secretariat has been able to conserve fiscal resources in the execution of member states' mandates. We are under by a considerable sum to date this year, and that was based on our anticipation of a fiscal problem on a cash basis. That drove us to cut back on the expenditure side. So we're pleased to report that.

On the next page, on the back, you'll see some charts that reflect some of this information. They provide a comparison of receipts and execution year by year. I'm referring to Annex II. The bottom half of the chart—it's on the back of the Annex I page—shows the 1998 Regular Fund execution for the whole year. The top of the page shows 1999 through September.

A couple of things to note: On the 1999 side, we received \$48.4 million in actual cash income; in the previous year, we received \$50.2 million. In 1999, our expenditures and our obligations were less than they were in the previous year. For example, our obligations in 1999 were \$68.1 million and in 1998, they were \$73.7 million. My point is, we're trying to conserve fiscal resources where we can, but what's driving that is limitation on cash resources.

Mr. Chairman, I welcome any questions regarding the remainder of the report or any of the details. Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Mr. Harding, and I now open the floor for any questions or comments from members.

Since there are no requests for the floor, I thank you once again, Mr. Harding, and I suggest that this Council transmit this report to the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP). I assume that silence means consent. It is so agreed.

#### INFORME DE LA SECRETARÍA GENERAL SOBRE EL ESTADO DE CUOTAS Y CONTRIBUCIONES VOLUNTARIAS AL 30 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 1999

El PRESIDENTE: We now move to item 4, the report of the General Secretariat on the status of quotas and voluntary contributions as of September 30, 1999, document CP/doc.3241/99. Once again, I give the floor to Mr. Harding to advise us of any developments in this respect.

El SUBSECRETARIO DE ADMINISTRACIÓN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think member states were provided with this information at the meeting on October 25th.

I call your attention to the page numbered “v” at the bottom, at least in the English version. It is a report on compliance with quota payments in accordance with AG/RES. 3 (XXV-E/98) of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly, held in November 1998. It lists those countries that:

- are up to date in all payments to the Regular Fund;
- have been in arrears and are in compliance with a schedule of payments;
- have arrears, but have also agreed to a schedule of payments in accordance with the resolution; and
- are in arrears as a result of special circumstances beyond their control, as determined by the General Assembly.

So this shows you the status of compliance in accordance with the rules that you all established in AG/RES. 3 (XXV-E/98). Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Mr. Harding. I now offer the floor to any delegations that may wish to address this matter. Since there are no observations, the Chair suggests that this Council transmit this report to the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP). It is so agreed.

#### RECAUDACIÓN DE CUOTAS AL 31 DE OCTUBRE DE 1999

El PRESIDENTE: The next item is the statement of quota collections as of October 31, 1999, document CP/doc.3248/99. This item has already been presented, and the Chair suggests that we take note of the document and proceed to the next item. It is so agreed.

#### INFORME DE LA SECRETARÍA GENERAL SOBRE LAS ACTIVIDADES DE LA UNIDAD PARA LA PROMOCIÓN DE LA DEMOCRACIA - SEGUNDO TRIMESTRE DE 1999

El PRESIDENTE: Item 6 refers to the report of the General Secretariat on the activities of the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD) during the second quarter of 1999. This report is found in document in CP/doc.3240/99.

I now give the floor to Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, Executive Coordinator of the UPD, who will present the report.

La COORDINADORA EJECUTIVA DE LA UNIDAD PARA LA PROMOCIÓN DE LA DEMOCRACIA: Thank you very much.

First of all, I apologize for just flying in. I know we're a very efficient body here, but I didn't realize we were going to be that efficient this afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'm pleased to present to the Permanent Council the report of the General Secretariat on the activities of the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD) for the second quarter of 1999. During

the period covered by this report, the UPD continued developing and implementing a series of activities according to its 1999 Work Plan and in accordance with mandates emanating from the recent general assemblies of the Organization.

Among other activities during this period, the UPD undertook a series of courses and seminars in thematic areas related to democracy. These events had been planned and worked on during the previous year and during the first quarter of 1999. The Unit also completed and/or distributed several publications related to its thematic areas in an effort to increase knowledge and exchanges of information on those issues in the Hemisphere.

In the area related to the promotion of democratic values and practices, the UPD joined with the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP), the *Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra* (PUCMM) of Santo Domingo, and the U.S. Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to hold the Seminar on Analyzing and Managing Conflicts: Tools for Strengthening Democratic Systems in the Dominican Republic from June 23 to 30, 1999. Thirty participants from the Caribbean, Central America, and Colombia took part in the seminar, the principle objective of which was to promote greater knowledge of the dynamics of conflicts as well as the techniques and methods to prevent, manage, and resolve them peacefully.

In the program area of decentralization, strengthening of local government, and participation by local citizens, two important events were held during the second quarter.

The Second International Seminar on Frameworks and Policies for Civic Participation at the Municipal Level took place in Buenos Aires from May 17 to 19, 1999. It was organized jointly with the *Secretaría de Razones con la Comunidad* of the Ministry of the Interior of Argentina and was a follow-up to an event held in Cochabamba, Bolivia, in July 1998. Upon the unanimous agreement of the participants, it was also considered the first activity of the Permanent Forum on Civic Participation at the Municipal Level, a mechanism for the regular exchange of knowledge and experiences on this topic in the Hemisphere.

The second event was the Diploma Course on Decentralization, with Emphasis on Local Finance, Management, and Social Policy and Planning, which took place in Bogotá, Colombia, from June 20 and 30, 1999, for the countries of the Andean region. The course was organized jointly by the UPD and the *Pontificia Universidad Javeriana* and hosted by the Colombian Government, and it involved 12 participants from the region.

With respect to research and publications during the second quarter, a research project on Relations between the Legislature and the Executive in Guatemala and Costa Rica was completed. This project was undertaken in collaboration with the Central American Program for Sustainability (PROCESOS) and the Center for Electoral Promotion and Advisory Services (CAPEL) of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIDH).

Editing of the book "Experiences with Legislative Modernization in Central America and the Dominican Republic" was also concluded in this period.

Studies were commissioned on the civil registry systems in the Andean region and the automation of electoral procedures in preparation for regional conference on these issues scheduled for the following quarter.

During the same period, two UPD publications on electoral and civil registry issues were circulated. One was the report on the Central American Conference on Strengthening Civil Registries, which took place in Panama in 1997, and the other was a report on the International Seminar on Electoral Legislation and Organization, which took place in Lima, Peru, in February of this year.

Also during the second quarter, the Unit organized and conducted the Democratic Forum on the Role of Civil Society in the Democratic Consolidation of the Americas. This forum, which took place at OAS headquarters on May 24, had the principal objective of examining the role that civil society plays in the processes of democratic consolidation and in the formulation of public policies in the Hemisphere. A number of excellent panelists representing governmental institutions and civil society organizations from Argentina, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, and Trinidad and Tobago participated in the event. The Unit is currently finalizing the editing of the report on the proceedings and conclusions of this forum.

In the programmatic area known as Integral Action against Antipersonnel Land Mines (AICMA), the Unit continued its activities in support of demining and related initiatives in Central America. At the request of the governments of Peru and Ecuador, the Unit began supporting demining activity in those two countries, specifically in a border region of demarcation between the two states. Both countries requested that the Secretariat establish a specific fund for the acquisition of equipment, material, and logistical support for demining in the demarcation area. During the second quarter, the Government of Canada provided CDN\$300,000 to this fund, and the Unit began the necessary actions to acquire and send the materials requested by both countries.

In the area of special programs, the Unit continued its activities in the framework of the Special Program of Support for Guatemala. During the twenty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly in Guatemala in June, the Unit collaborated with the Department of Public Information to exhibit publications and other materials on the programs that constitute the Special Program. We also screened a video entitled "The Color of Peace," co-produced by these two areas of the Secretariat, which describes the Guatemalan peace process and the support being provided by the Organization to this important process.

Another special program, the OAS's component of the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH), was substantially reduced during the second quarter of this year, as sufficient additional voluntary resources were not obtained for 1999. Despite issuing an appeal letter for additional funds in April and the generous response of countries such as Chile and Antigua and Barbuda, as announced by the Secretary General in his letter to the Chair of the Permanent Council on May 21, the OAS was obliged to reduce its involvement in the Mission. The Organization continues a modest presence in MICIVIH, however, and the joint character of the Mission has been retained.

On June 30, 1999, five of the nine regional offices of the MICIVIH were closed down, and the number of observers was reduced by approximately one half. Only about 40 observers continue to work in the Mission on the UN side. The OAS has retained the services of the Executive Director of the Mission, Mr. Colin Granderson, who continues to head MICIVIH until the completion of its mandate on December 31, 1999.

Finally, in the area of electoral observation, the Unit organized and conducted two electoral observation missions. At the request of the Government of Panama, the Organization observed the



general elections in that country on May 2, 1999. Thirty-five international observers from various member states were fielded to cover a large portion of Panamanian national territory, and the Mission observed the pre-electoral preparations, election day, and the post-electoral situation in the country.

During the same month, at the request of the Government of Guatemala, the Unit also organized and deployed an observer mission to Guatemala for the referendum on constitutional amendments. Thirty observers were deployed throughout the country to follow the process and 12 regional officers were established.

In both cases, the elections were determined to be well conducted and transparent in accordance with the norms of each country. The draft reports for both missions have been completed and are being forwarded to the Secretary General for his consideration.

Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. I now open the floor for comments and questions. I have great pleasure in giving the floor to the distinguished Representative of Guatemala.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE GUATEMALA: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Hago uso de la palabra no solamente para agradecer el completo informe que la señora Spehar está compartiendo con nosotros el día de hoy sino también para reconocer particularmente las actividades que la Unidad para la Promoción de la Democracia desarrolla en mi país.

Como los distinguidos Representantes conocen, existe en ejecución en Guatemala un Programa Especial de Apoyo por parte de la Organización a través de la UPD, el cual ha sido muy exitoso y ha contribuido de forma muy particular a los esfuerzos que mi país realiza en la consolidación de la democracia, la paz y la reconciliación. Dicho Programa ha sido posible gracias a la generosidad tanto de los Estados miembros como de países observadores, por lo cual mi país está muy agradecido. Gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. The distinguished Representative of Chile has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE CHILE: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Quiero agradecer, por su intermedio, a la señora Elizabeth Spehar el completo informe que refleja de una forma muy interesante las actividades de la Unidad para la Promoción de la Democracia.

Solamente quisiera hacer dos consultas en relación con el cuadro final sobre nivel de ejecución presupuestaria. En la página 29 de la versión en español, bajo el epígrafe “Modernización y fortalecimiento de los registros civiles”, aparece una Conferencia Subregional sobre Fortalecimiento de Registros Civiles para Centroamérica y Panamá que no tiene fondos asignados; bajo la columna “Fondos específicos – País” dice BID y, por cierto, no tiene ejecución.

En segundo lugar, en la página 31, bajo el epígrafe “Centro para el Estudios de la Democracia”, está el proyecto 00856, Programa para el Estudio de la Democracia; hay asignados \$51.480 del Fondo Regular y la ejecución es cero. Me gustaría tener información sobre esos dos proyectos. Muchas gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Ms. Spehar, feel free to answer that question. You have the floor.

La COORDINADORA EJECUTIVA DE LA UNIDAD PARA LA PROMOCIÓN DE LA DEMOCRACIA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Con respecto al primer punto, la Conferencia se menciona en el presupuesto, aunque sin ningún tipo de cifra, solo porque se menciona en la parte narrativa del texto, y se menciona en la parte narrativa del texto porque durante este trimestre salió la publicación que tiene que ver con esta actividad. Se menciona el BID, porque cuando se realizó la actividad el BID participó con nosotros en la realización de la misma y sí brindó algunos recursos. Creo que fueron en ese entonces como \$20.000.

En cuanto al segundo punto, el Programa para el Estudio de la Democracia, como ustedes recordarán, es una nueva área que fue aprobada en el marco del plan de trabajo de la Unidad para 1999 y que fue establecida contando mucho con eventuales recursos del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo.

Desgraciadamente hasta la fecha estos recursos no han llegado. Según las últimas comunicaciones que he tenido con el Banco, entiendo que este proyecto sigue activo en el Banco y que algún día se van a recibir los recursos. Este programa no ha sido establecido todavía esperando que lleguen esos recursos. El dinero del Fondo Regular que se había asignado para este programa sigue ahí hasta que se obtengan los recursos del Banco. Los recursos del Fondo Regular debían destinarse solo a la parte, digamos, *overhead* del programa, porque el Banco nos dijo claramente que iba a contribuir recursos a la ejecución de actividades, pero no a ningún gasto en personal, etcétera. Ojalá que en los próximos meses se pueda contar con este dinero.

El PRESIDENTE: I take it that that satisfies the Ambassador. I now call on the distinguished Representative of Panama.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE PANAMÁ: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Mi Delegación desea agradecer a la señora Elizabeth Spehar el informe que nos acaba de presentar sobre las actividades de la Unidad para la Promoción de la Democracia, que ella tan efectivamente dirige, informe que corresponde al período comprendido entre el 1 de abril y el 30 de julio del presente año.

Señor Presidente, la Delegación de Panamá siempre le ha brindado el más irrestricto apoyo a esta Unidad y seguirá respaldando todas las labores que se sigan efectuando a fin de promover y fortalecer los sistemas democráticos de nuestro hemisferio, que es una de las funciones primordiales de nuestra Organización, cuyo papel es eminentemente político.

Además de felicitar a la señora Spehar y al valioso equipo que la acompañan en sus labores, he solicitado el uso de la palabra para hacer un testimonio público –ya que por encontrarme en uso de vacaciones hasta hace unos meses no lo pude hacer antes– del reconocimiento de mi país al magnífico y positivo papel que desempeñó la Misión de Observación Electoral que concurrió a Panamá durante los comicios generales que tuvieron lugar en mi país el 2 de mayo de 1999.

Estuve en Panamá durante las elecciones y puedo dar constancia del desempeño tan positivo y tan constante que tuvo cada integrante de la Misión, presidida por el señor Santiago Murray con la

eficiente colaboración de la señora Cristina Tomassoni. A ellos mi especial agradecimiento por la ardua labor realizada. Les reitero mis felicitaciones así como mi agradecimiento personal y el de mi Gobierno. Fueron elecciones sumamente pacíficas y ordenadas en las que triunfó la voluntad de la mayoría de los panameños.

La voluntad expresada por los panameños en las urnas fue aceptada inmediatamente por las fuerzas políticas que no alcanzaron la victoria. Esto se debió a las cifras que fueron dando las encuestas que se hicieron a la salida de las urnas.

Nuevamente, mis felicitaciones a usted, señora Spehar. Mi agradecimiento nuevamente al señor Santiago Murray, a la señora Cristina Tomassoni y a cada uno de los 35 integrantes de esa Misión de Observación Electoral en mi país. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you. I give the floor to the distinguished Representative of Grenada.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE GRENADA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My delegation thanks Dr. Spehar for her report and acknowledges with appreciation the technical support provided by the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD) to my country in its efforts to modernize our civil registry. We recognize this form of cooperation as vital to the strengthening of an institution that is a main pillar of the democratic governance that we enjoy in our country. We look forward to continued support from the UPD as we undertake our constitutional reform.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. I give the floor to the distinguished Representative of Paraguay.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL PARAGUAY: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. La Delegación del Paraguay desea agradecer y felicitar a la señora Elizabeth Spehar por este informe tan útil sobre las actividades desarrolladas el último año por la Unidad para la Promoción de la Democracia, actividades que han tenido, obviamente, efecto y una repercusión muy importante y muy positiva en el fortalecimiento de los sistemas democráticos de la región.

En particular, la Delegación de mi país desea agradecer a la señora Spehar y a todos los integrantes de la Unidad por el magnífico trabajo de apoyo que han realizado, especialmente en todo lo relacionado con la reestructuración del sistema electoral, la elaboración de un nuevo padrón electoral y un esfuerzo muy grande de cedulación de aproximadamente 450.000 ciudadanos que aún no pueden participar en las elecciones porque no cuentan con la identificación pertinente. Eso representaría un incremento de aproximadamente 20% del padrón electoral actual.

Al mismo tiempo deseo también mencionar y agradecer a la Unidad por la magnífica organización de un curso de capacitación de jóvenes –que es otra de las líneas de acción muy importantes de la UPD– del MERCOSUR, que está culminando en este momento en la ciudad de Asunción, en el que están participando 35 jóvenes del MERCOSUR y que fue inaugurado el día 8 de noviembre pasado con la presencia del Presidente de la República, el doctor Luis Ángel González Macchi. Es todo, muchas gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you. I recognize the distinguished Representative of the United States.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. My delegation would like to express its appreciation to Dr. Spehar for her comprehensive report, and we look forward to examining it in greater detail in the Working Group on Representative Democracy.

Our feeling in this delegation, Mr. Chairman, is that the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD) is a source of great pride for this organization. The work of strengthening democratic institutions is not easy. The Unit has broken new ground in developing this line of work, and we have heard here today testimonies to the value of that work. The Unit is touching and enriching the lives of the people of the Americas, and we greatly appreciate its efforts.

Thank you very much.

El PRESIDENTE: I give the floor to the distinguished Representative of Nicaragua.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE NICARAGUA: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. En representación del Gobierno de Nicaragua queremos agradecer el informe presentado por la señora Elizabeth Spehar sobre las actividades de la Unidad para la Promoción de la Democracia, que ella coordina, correspondiente al segundo trimestre de 1999.

Específicamente y en cuanto al caso de Nicaragua, queremos reiterar nuestro agradecimiento por la colaboración que dicha Unidad continúa prestando en lo relativo al Programa de Desminado en Nicaragua, el cual se continúa desarrollando de manera normal y exitosamente. Muchas gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. Since there are no further requests for the floor, I suggest that the Council take note of the report and that it be transmitted to the Working Group on Representative Democracy of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) for its consideration. Is it so agreed? Agreed.

#### INFORME ORAL DEL JEFE DE LA MISIÓN DE OBSERVACIÓN ELECTORAL EN GUATEMALA

El PRESIDENTE: We now move to item 7, the oral report of the Chief of the Electoral Observation Mission in Guatemala.

I am pleased to give the floor to Mr. Edgardo Costa Reis of the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD) for the presentation of this report. Mr. Reis, you have the floor.

El JEFE DE LA MISIÓN DE OBSERVACIÓN ELECTORAL EN GUATEMALA: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Gracias a todos aquí. Voy a hablar en español, no porque considere que lo hable muy bien, sino porque es más fácil para usar la terminología electoral de Guatemala.

Esta Misión de Observación Electoral fue enviada a Guatemala a invitación del Gobierno y del Tribunal Supremo Electoral de ese país. Nosotros llegamos al país como a fines de octubre e

integramos una misión con 80 personas el día del acto electoral. Notarán ustedes que nosotros hablamos de Misión de Observación Electoral y no de observación de elecciones. Para nosotros las elecciones son solamente un componente de la observación de un proceso electoral, que, en el caso de Guatemala, aún no termina y para nosotros solo terminará el día de la toma de posesión, el 14 de enero del próximo año.

Respecto a las actividades de la Misión de Observación Electoral, después de las más de cuarenta observaciones que la Unidad para la Promoción de la Democracia ha realizado en más de la mitad de los países miembros, hemos desarrollado, no solo con mi experiencia sino también con la de mis colegas de la Unidad, mecanismos y sistemas de observación que ahora los ponemos en práctica.

Se los voy a explicar aquí muy rápidamente. La Misión se instala en el país y desarrolla dos tipos de actividades: una actividad precomicial y una actividad el día de las elecciones.

En la actividad precomicial la Misión procura tener el máximo de visibilidad en el país de manera que la población sepa de la presencia de una misión internacional en las localidades del país. En el caso de Guatemala, pudimos tener una presencia en los 22 departamentos del país. El número de observadores se aumenta gradualmente hasta llegar a su máximo el día de las elecciones. Esta actividad precomicial, además de tratar de enfatizar la visibilidad de la Misión, también presupone que los observadores, los coordinadores regionales, mantengan siempre contacto con las organizaciones políticas, con las organizaciones no gubernamentales, con los medios de comunicación y principalmente con la ciudadanía. Esa es más o menos la actividad precomicial que se realiza.

Dentro de esas actividades hay una que también es muy especial, que es recibir denuncias. No es que la Misión vaya a un país para resolver los problemas cuando estos surgen o nos llegan denuncias. Nuestra función y nuestro mandato es recibir denuncias, hacerlas llegar a la autoridad electoral y después monitorearlas. Me referiré a algunas de ellas después.

Noten ustedes que el día de las elecciones tenemos 80 personas y, al día siguiente, normalmente se emite un comunicado en el que nosotros damos juicios sobre el acto electoral. La pregunta que siempre se plantea es cómo, con 80 personas, puede uno hacer juicios sobre una elección que involucró, en el caso de Guatemala, más de 7.600 mesas y casi 4,5 millones de electores. Para esto recurrimos a los mecanismos de los que les hablé al inicio de mi intervención, que fueron desarrollados a lo largo de estos años por la Unidad. Los mecanismos consisten en un muestreo estadístico del país y también en un análisis y evaluaciones de los sistemas de transmisión de datos, sistemas de totalizaciones y sistemas de cómputos. Eso se hace el día de la elección.

La actividad preelectoral es bastante distinta de la actividad que se desarrolla el día de las elecciones, cuando nuestra preocupación, además de tratar de tener también un poco de visibilidad, es más orientada hacia la implementación de esos mecanismos. Es decir, tenemos blancos específicos que son determinados por el muestreo estadístico. En el caso de Guatemala, en las últimas elecciones –ustedes quizás hayan tenido información al respecto–, tuvimos en realidad cinco elecciones: una para presidente y vicepresidente; una para diputados y representantes del PARLACEN; una para el Congreso por lista nacional; otra para el Congreso por distrito, y otra a nivel municipal, que sería para los alcaldes. Respecto a estas cinco elecciones, nosotros emitimos el juicio de que fueron elecciones, por supuesto, muy limpias, transparentes. No se observó ningún tipo de intimidación a los votantes que pudiera poner en peligro o impedir que estos comparecieran libremente a votar. Además de eso,

la evaluación que hicimos tanto de los sistemas de transmisión de datos como de los propios resultados a través de lo que llamamos “conteo rápido” indicaron que los resultados oficiales realmente fueron transparentes y reflejaron la voluntad popular.

Por ejemplo –hago aquí un comercial de nuestras actividades de la UPD y de nuestras misiones–, la diferencia entre nuestro conteo rápido y los resultados oficiales fue de 0,3%. O sea, nuestras proyecciones y el resultado oficial nos dieron ese tipo de resultado. Por eso se pueden emitir los juicios que hicimos al día siguiente.

Los aspectos positivos de esta elección en Guatemala fueron muchos. Por primera vez fueron elecciones en que todo el espectro político estaba representado. Fue una elección que también significó una línea divisoria en las elecciones en Guatemala porque por primera vez se notó una evolución en la participación popular en un acto electoral.

Ustedes recordarán que en la consulta popular que hubo en mayo pasado el índice de abstencionismo fue de 82%. En la última elección el índice de abstencionismo fue de 45%, o sea, más de la mitad de las personas inscritas en el padrón comparecieron a votar. Además de eso, la Misión también desarrolló otra actividad de evaluación que yo creo que es muy indicativa para los que estudian la conducta de una población electoral: se observó también que en esa participación popular el voto femenino y el voto masculino fueron casi parejos, 48% y 54%, si no me equivoco, es decir, participación de hombres y mujeres de acuerdo con la inscripción en el padrón. Esto también revela la gran participación femenina en procesos electorales y aún más ahora en Guatemala, como lo hemos visto.

Sin embargo, se notaron y se registraron algunos problemas el día de las elecciones. Ese día fue realmente una gran fiesta; teníamos hasta marimbas en los centros de votación. No obstante, ese día hubo una denuncia de uno de los partidos con respecto a los autobuses en la capital. Según ese partido se registró un paro intencional por parte de la compañía de servicios de autobuses. La Misión estuvo presente, fue a comprobar la denuncia y se notó, aunque no en los números que nos habían dicho, que realmente había muchos autobuses parados. No se pudo determinar si hubo intención o no de obstrucción del voto, porque no sabíamos cuántos autobuses estaban en circulación. Es decir, si usted tiene 500 paralizados pero 5.000 funcionando, eso no significa mucho. Esa impugnación fue posteriormente rechazada por el Tribunal Electoral. Si eso en principio se solucionó, se aceptó lo que otros organismos internacionales también dijeron sobre ese episodio de los autobuses, lo mismo necesariamente no ocurrió en el período poscomicial.

Lamentablemente hubo algunos hechos de violencia, pero no relacionados tanto con la elección a nivel nacional, presidencial. Podría, quizás, hasta arriesgarme a decir que son actos que no son normales pero que se observan mucho en ese tipo de elección a nivel de alcaldía. Hay mucha emoción con respecto a las elecciones municipales. Fueron actos de violencia muy localizados, en tres municipios principalmente, y el Tribunal, por lo menos en dos de ellos, solicitó que se realizaran nuevas elecciones.

En resumen, lo que tuvimos fue un acto electoral muy simple, un acto electoral limpio, transparente. Me gustaría hacer un paréntesis para felicitar al Tribunal Supremo Electoral de Guatemala por la excelente organización de los comicios. Digo esto no solo en nombre de la Misión, sino sobre la base de nuestras propias conversaciones con las organizaciones políticas y otras, de las cuales nunca hemos recibido ninguna queja sobre la manera en que el Tribunal organizó las

elecciones. Fueron elecciones muy bien organizadas, aunque, por supuesto, el sistema electoral todavía no sea eficiente. Había una proposición de reformas electorales que desafortunadamente no se realizaron pero tampoco fueron olvidadas.

El resultado de las elecciones a nivel nacional no fue suficiente para que ninguno de los candidatos pudiera evitar una segunda ronda. Esta segunda vuelta será el 26 de diciembre próximo. El candidato con mayor número de votos fue el del Frente Republicano Guatemalteco, Alfonso Portillo, que recibió 48,2% de los votos, contra el que quedó en segundo lugar, el candidato del Partido de Avanzada Nacional, Oscar Berger, que recibió alrededor de un 31,5% de los votos. Eso a nivel nacional; en la capital los resultados fueron más parejos. Eso significa, entonces, que va a haber una segunda vuelta y que la Misión, aunque por supuesto tengamos nuestras limitaciones financieras, mantuvo una presencia permanente en Guatemala.

Todavía tenemos una buena presencia en Guatemala que se va a mantener hasta el 15 de enero. Esperamos poder contar, otra vez, con la ayuda financiera para la Misión –como la tuvimos ahora– de los Gobiernos de los Estados Unidos y del Japón, y quizás podamos repetir otra vez la misma presencia el 26 de diciembre. Esa presencia fue de 80 observadores y contamos realmente con una misión de carácter internacional. Tuvimos presentes grupos de observadores de Noruega y un grupo de observadores de Japón. Trabajamos en asociación con la USAID, con representantes de IDEA, un instituto en Suecia, y con representantes de la Fundación Soros. Para la segunda vuelta estamos manteniendo una presencia menor pero constante y permanente, en Guatemala, acompañando los eventos.

Con relación a los hechos de violencia que les mencioné, la Misión también emitió un comunicado pidiendo que se mantuviera la calma y que se observaran los marcos legales y jurídicos para las protestas de las discrepancias que pudieran existir y es nuestra intención quedarnos allá hasta el 15 de enero. Para mí, además del honor de ser el Jefe de la Misión, es un placer, por supuesto, estar en Guatemala.

No sé si toqué todos los asuntos, pero si ustedes tienen alguna pregunta, con mucho gusto la contestaré. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

EL PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Mr. Reis. I call on the distinguished Representative of Guatemala.

EL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE GUATEMALA: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Quisiera iniciar mi intervención agradeciendo el informe verbal presentando por el Jefe de la Misión de Observación Electoral en Guatemala, señor Edgardo Reis, sobre las elecciones realizadas en mi país el 7 de noviembre pasado, hace poco más de una semana. Creo que es importante resaltar la prontitud con que se está presentando este informe verbal, ya que permite conocer a los miembros de este Consejo, incluido este servidor, las impresiones, comentarios y conclusiones de la Misión de Observación sobre un proceso electoral en un tiempo dentro del cual una reacción de este Consejo, de ser necesaria, hubiera tenido alguna posibilidad de impacto.

Agradezco al Secretario General el haber atendido la invitación para que una misión de observación pudiera estar presente, dar seguimiento y observar el proceso electoral de mi país, el cual, como lo señaló el señor Reis, aún no ha finalizado, ya que, debido a los resultados de la primera vuelta electoral será necesario llevar a cabo una segunda el 26 de diciembre.

Señor Presidente, tomando en cuenta las características tan particulares bajo las cuales se desarrollará esta segunda vuelta electoral, una efectiva y adecuada participación de la Misión de Observación Electoral de la OEA se presenta como necesaria.

Quisiera aprovechar también esta oportunidad, señor Presidente, para resaltar el profesionalismo y la ecuanimidad con que se condujeron tanto el Jefe como el resto de los miembros de la Misión de Observación y la pronta reacción y buen tino con que manejaron las situaciones a ellos planteadas, incluyendo los exhortos realizados por esa Misión a grupos de la población y dirigentes políticos inconformes con algunos de los resultados a que utilizaran los canales legales y que no recurrieran a métodos violentos o reñidos con la ley para tratar de resolver los problemas.

Asimismo, agradezco los comentarios tan positivos hacia los comicios y el haber resaltado no solo la alta participación, la limpieza, la libertad y la transparencia con que se desenvolvieron sino también el papel tan importante jugado por las autoridades y por los funcionarios del Tribunal Supremo Electoral, institución que, dicho sea de paso, ha recibido un constante apoyo por parte de esta Organización a través de la Unidad para la Promoción de la Democracia para que tuviera el recurso material y humano que le permitiera llegar a tener resultados cada vez más positivos, precisamente como los que se tuvieron en estos comicios, y para que llegara a tener la credibilidad nacional e internacional de la que actualmente goza.

Para finalizar, señor Presidente, y al mismo tiempo que agradezco al señor Reis y su equipo de observadores por el excelente trabajo que han realizado y que estamos seguros que continuarán realizando para la segunda vuelta, también quisiera expresar nuestro agradecimiento a los Gobiernos de los Estados Unidos y del Japón, que realizaron las contribuciones financieras para el financiamiento de la Misión. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. Since there are no other requests for the floor, the Chair suggests that the Council take note of the information presented by Dr. Reis on behalf of the General Secretariat. Is it so agreed? Agreed.

INFORME DE LA SECRETARÍA GENERAL SOBRE LAS ACTIVIDADES  
DE LA UNIDAD DE COMERCIO CORRESPONDIENTE AL PERÍODO  
DEL 1 DE ENERO AL 30 DE JUNIO DE 1999

El PRESIDENTE: The next item is the report of the General Secretariat on the activities of the Trade Unit for the period January 1 to June 30, 1999, document CP/doc.3249/99. I am pleased to give the floor to Mr. José Manuel Salazar, Special Advisor to the Secretary General on Trade, for the presentation of this report.

El ASESOR ESPECIAL PARA ASUNTOS COMERCIALES: Thank you very much, Ambassador Blackman; it's a pleasure to be here again. I have to use my time with you judiciously, particularly at this late hour; therefore, I would prefer not to go over the details of the report of the activities of the Trade Unit for the period January-June 1999, a copy of which you all have. Of course, I would be very happy to answer questions about it.

I would like to focus on the most recent developments in the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) process and, particularly, on the results of the Fifth Western Hemisphere Trade Ministerial,



held in Toronto, Canada, on November 3 and 4. This is very appropriate, because all of the work that was done during the year, including the first semester of the report that you have, was a buildup to Toronto and geared toward the results of this meeting.

As you know, the Tripartite Committee institutions—the OAS, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin American and Caribbean (ECLAC)—operate under the coordination of one of the three institutions. This coordination rotates every six months, and since July the OAS has been coordinating. As a result, we had an important amount of additional work in these last few months, particularly as the Toronto Ministerial approached.

The results of the meeting are contained in the Toronto Declaration; copies have been circulated to you, as well as a CD-ROM on which I will comment in a minute. I also distributed for your information the message delivered by Secretary General Gaviria on behalf of the Tripartite Committee at the Ministerial Meeting.

But before summarizing for you the main results of Toronto, I think it is important to clarify that the Toronto Declaration builds upon the landmark decisions taken in San José. The San José Declaration set out the principles, objectives, and structure of the negotiations. The Toronto Declaration is essentially a vector of this, based on the revision by ministers of the progress achieved since the negotiations were launched in Santiago in April 1998. It provides new guidelines where necessary for the next period, based on this assessment of progress.

The Toronto Ministerial Meeting can be described as a very successful meeting. There were significant results in five areas:

First and very significantly, the ministers gave new instructions to the negotiating groups to focus their work on the preparation of draft texts of the respective chapters of an FTAA agreement.

Second, the ministers approved an important set of business facilitation measures. They made the very significant decision that business facilitation should be an ongoing exercise from now to 2005 and that a new package of business facilitation measures should be achieved at the Argentina Ministerial in April 2001.

Third, the ministers came to a very significant agreement on a joint message from all the countries in the Americas to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on occasion of the WTO's Third Ministerial Meeting in Seattle.

Fourth, the ministers took a number of managerial decisions regarding the role of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC), which is made up of the vice ministers, and approved a new set of chairs and vice chairs for all the negotiating groups and the three special committees.

And fifth, the ministers took important decisions in specific areas, such as civil society, electronic commerce, and smaller economies.

So let me summarize for you the achievements in each one of these areas.

I think the most important results of Toronto were the instructions to the Negotiating Groups:

. . . to prepare a draft text of their respective chapters, taking into account the progress made in the preparation of the annotated outlines for each area, recognizing that they should be viewed as frames of reference to facilitate the work of the negotiating groups and not as definitive or exclusive outlines of an agreement.

The ministers were quite specific in their new instructions. Paragraph 8 of the Declaration further specifies that:

The Negotiating Groups will have the objective of preparing a text that is as comprehensive in scope and that contains the texts on which consensus was reached and places the texts on which consensus could not be reached between brackets.

In addition, the ministers instructed the TNC to assemble the texts provided by the Negotiating Groups; to begin discussions of the overall architecture of an FTAA agreement, such as general and/or institutional aspects of the agreement; and to include all of this in its report for the ministers' consideration at the Argentina Ministerial in April 2001.

The second area is business facilitation. The ministers agreed on a set of measures in the areas of customs and transparency, two areas that had been identified as priorities by successive Americas Business Fora. Eight specific customs measures were approved and will be implemented beginning January 1, 2000. Annex II of the Declaration contains the list of these eight customs measures. The transparency measures listed in Annex III of the Declaration will make procedures and regulations better known and more accessible to the public.

For example, the transparency package includes linking, via Internet, the homepages and websites of all the relevant institutions and organizations in the countries of the Hemisphere in the areas covered by the negotiations, as well as the sites of those nonofficial institutions with responsibility for trade and investment promotion and facilitation. This so-called hyperlink project was developed by the Tripartite Committee, under the supervision of the TNC, during the last six months and was approved and announced by the ministers in Toronto. This is only one of the transparency measures. This project and other databases and inventories led to a complete redesign of the official FTAA homepage, which is already operative. This new information is contained in the CD-ROM that we distributed to you today, and we also gave you a couple of pages with the initial screen that appears when you click on to that database.

It is also important to report to you that the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) of the IDB is considering a request by ministers to provide financial support and technical assistance to implement the customs-related business facilitation measures, in particular in the case of smaller economies.

Ministers agreed that business facilitation is an ongoing process. They directed the TNC to supervise the full implementation of the agreed measures and to identify and recommend additional measures to ministers for decision at their next Ministerial.

The third area of achievement in Toronto is the fact that ministers agreed on a joint message to the World Trade Organization on the occasion of the Third WTO Ministerial Meeting in Seattle. In this message, the ministers expressed their countries' support for the launch of new multilateral negotiations at Seattle and, particularly, their agreement to work during the next WTO round toward

the objective of eliminating export subsidies on agricultural products. They also jointly expressed the view that the agenda of the upcoming WTO negotiations should be balanced to respond to the interests of all economies. Finally, they agreed to communicate to the WTO:

. . . that the interests of developing economies, including the smaller economies of the FTAA, should be addressed through enhanced attention to the effective implementation of special and differential treatment and other WTO provisions affecting developing countries and increased support for capacity-building and technical assistance, . . .

Let me now go to the fourth area in which the main results of the Toronto Ministerial can be grouped—managerial decisions. The ministers agreed that the TNC, under the chairmanship of Argentina, will retain the same central role in managing the FTAA negotiations. The TNC will meet three times between now and the next Ministerial in April 2001. The first meeting will be held in Guatemala by the end of April 2000. The second meeting is to be held in Barbados later next year, and the third meeting is to be held in Peru in early 2001.

The ministers also agreed to a complete rotation of the responsibilities by countries in the chairs and vice chairs of the nine negotiating groups and the three special committees. In the interest of time, I will only read the names of the countries that will chair the committees and groups for the next 18-month period. You have in the Declaration the list of chairs and vice chairs.

Market Access will be chaired by Chile; Investment by Trinidad and Tobago; Services by the United States; Government Procurement by Canada; Dispute Settlement by Costa Rica; Agriculture by Brazil; Intellectual Property Rights by Mexico; Subsidies, Antidumping, and Countervailing Duties by Venezuela; and Competition Policy by Colombia. The Consultative Group on Smaller Economies will be chaired by Guatemala; the Joint Government-Private Sector Committee of Experts on Electronic Commerce by Uruguay, and the Committee of Government Representatives on the Participation of Civil Society by Bolivia.

The Tripartite Committee institutions will be recognized for the analytical, technical, and financial support they have provided to the process. Ministers stated that “this support has been essential to the conduct of the negotiations to date” and asked the institutions of the Tripartite Committee to continue to provide such assistance for FTAA-related matters.

Further to this, the Tripartite Committee was given five specific tasks to implement. This is a departure from previous declarations in the sense that these are direct, specific requests from ministers to the Tripartite Committee institutions.

Finally, I would like to mention decisions in three specific areas: civil society, electronic commerce, and smaller economies. The issue of civil society was highlighted in the Declaration. Ministers received the report of the Committee of Government Representatives on the Participation of Civil Society and decided to make it public. It is available on the official FTAA website. They also:

. . . directed the Committee to obtain ongoing input from Civil Society on trade matters relevant to the FTAA through written submissions, using the San José Declaration as its frame of reference, and to provide a report outlining the full range of views received for our consideration at our next meeting.

The transparency-related measures outlined in Annex III of the Declaration are also a response to many sectors of civil society that are interested in the FTAA process and are seeking more information about it.

Regarding electronic commerce, ministers agreed that the Joint Government-Private Sector Committee of Experts on Electronic Commerce should continue to meet over the next 18-month period as a non-negotiating group. The ministers welcomed the report prepared by the Committee and made it public.

Finally, regarding smaller economies, ministers instructed the TNC to immediately begin to examine ways in which the differences in levels of development and size of the economies of the Hemisphere could be treated in the negotiations. Ministers agreed with the recommendations made by the Consultative Group on Smaller Economies concerning further work in the next stage of the negotiations. They reiterated the importance they attach to the effective operation of the Consultative Group on Smaller Economies and called upon the TNC to take into account in its deliberations the findings and recommendations of the Consultative Group, including the drafting of the Negotiating Group texts, in order to create opportunities for the full participation of the smaller economies and to increase their level of development.

I could not finish this report to you without recognizing the superb logistical arrangements of the Government of Canada for the Trade Ministerial, the Americas Business Forum, and other activities that took place in Toronto, as well as the warm hospitality provided by the citizens of the city of Toronto. I would also like to recognize the enthusiastic support and the close collaboration enjoyed by the Tripartite Committee institutions, and the OAS in particular, during the last 18 months with the Canadian team that presided over the FTAA process and with the people who were related to it in one way or another, both in Ottawa and here in Washington. On behalf of the Trade Unit and SICE personnel, I would like to thank you in particular, Ambassador Boehm, for all your personal support and encouragement and that of all your staff during the last 18 months. We look forward to working with Argentina, which will chair the process for the next 18 months.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. I call on the distinguished Representative of Jamaica to address us.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE JAMAICA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I'd like to thank the Special Advisor to the Secretary General on Trade, Dr. José Manuel Salazar, for his brief but very succinct and clear overview of the activities at the recently held Trade Ministerial and for his review of the Ministerial Declaration. I'd also like to thank him for the written report of the activities of the Trade Unit between January and June of 1999.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make the following five points.

First, I'd like to recognize the outstanding work that the Trade Unit has done, particularly the enormous amount of technical work to support the negotiating groups and other bodies of the FTAA process. But over and above that, Mr. Chairman, the quality of the technical work has been excellent, and I say that from the point of view of an economist.

Second, the work of the Trade Unit has placed the OAS in a central, legitimate, and important role in the FTAA process, and this has brought enormous credit to the Organization. I know that we are primarily a political organization, but we have come to realize that political stability and security must be rooted in economic development. In this era of a globalized economy, the engine of growth and development is trade. Therefore, the OAS's contribution to this process, through the Trade Unit, is of enormous and critical importance to the future of the Hemisphere, both in its economic and political development.

Third, I think that the Tripartite institutions—and I would single out the OAS's Trade Unit for doing a tremendous amount of work—have worked well together, and the FTAA process could not have achieved what it has without their support.

Fourth, I want to place on record, as Chairman of the Consultative Group on Smaller Economies, that the Trade Unit has been instrumental in supporting the concerns and efforts of smaller economies within the FTAA process. They have done this, Mr. Chairman, through two channels. Technical and policy advice studies have informed the discussions on smaller economies and have enabled us to make specific recommendations on how to address this issue. Their program of ongoing technical assistance has prepared the negotiators for smaller economies to articulate their interests in a more informed way and has been instrumental in bringing out the necessary data and issues that confront smaller economies as they articulate their interests within the process.

Mr. Chairman, I draw your attention to Section 5 of this report, entitled "Technical Cooperation." Technical cooperation is of particular importance to the smaller economies and, since its inception, the Trade Unit has provided a range of technical assistance, in particular training. I note that this year we have proposed a training course for government officials on multilateral and regional trade issues in the Americas. This is a continuation of a program that has been very successful in the past. I'm very aware of the binding financial constraints that we face in funding projects, and I'd like to urge member states to give their support to this project and to ensure that it is funded. Technical assistance is of particular importance to smaller economies, and a majority of members of the OAS are smaller economies.

I reiterate my appreciation for the outstanding work that the Trade Unit has done and urge that we provide it with the necessary human and financial resources to enable it to continue its essential role in the FTAA process.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to speak.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you. I call on the distinguished Representative of Canada.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL CANADÁ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I would also like to thank Dr. José Manuel Salazar for his excellent report. He has done a terrific job as Director of the Trade Unit, and Canada owes a debt of gratitude to the Trade Unit and all of its staff for their tireless efforts in support of the FTAA process. We would not be where we are today in this process if it were not for the unflinching dedication and commitment of your staff and, of course, of yourself.

It should be apparent as well that during Canada's 18-month chairmanship of the negotiations, the Tripartite Committee, made up of the OAS, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) played an extremely important role. As my Trade Minister, Pierre Pettigrew, noted at the Trade Ministerial in Toronto, the Tripartite Committee is the backbone of the negotiations in terms of financial and technical support.

What happened in Toronto was impressive. We have overseen the establishment of the institutional foundation for the negotiations, developed and obtained agreement on a major business facilitation package, brokered an agreement on a strong collective message to send to Geneva on the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations, and ensured that clear direction has been provided for the next stage of the negotiations.

We also saw an agreement reached by ministers to continue the Committee of Government Representatives on the Participation of Civil Society with a renewed mandate to receive ongoing input from civil society. This was quite an accomplishment, which required significant flexibility on the part of a number of delegations. Bolivia was elected to chair this committee, and we look forward to working closely with Bolivia to ensure that the concerns of civil society continue to be addressed in a meaningful manner. We again would like to recognize the important role played by the Tripartite Committee in supporting this activity.

The more open attitude towards the engagement of civil society at the hemispheric level was moreover bolstered by the attendance of more than 15 ministers and heads of delegation at the Americas Civil Society Forum, held on the margins of the meeting in Toronto. This was an unprecedented event that bodes well for the future engagement of civil society in the FTAA process. It is also to be noted that the Tripartite Committee played a major role in each and every one of these accomplishments—from providing direct technical support to the Negotiating Groups to assisting in the design and implementation of the transparency-related business facilitation measures.

The OAS and its partners were also key players in the Americas Business Forum (ABF), which provided guidance and support to the organizers of the event. More than 800 business leaders from 34 countries across the Hemisphere gathered at the ABF to make deals, discuss critical trade issues, and provide direct input into the ongoing negotiations for the FTAA.

Input from the ABF's private sector delegates has become an integral part of the FTAA process. This year, recommendations from the delegates were presented to the 34 assembled trade ministers of the Americas in a special joint plenary session, chaired by the Forum Chairman, the Honorable Mark Lalonde. The joint session also included a speech by Pierre Pettigrew, our Minister of International Trade, and a keynote address by the Prime Minister of Canada, Jean Chrétien. This formal integration of private sector concerns is unique in international trade policy negotiations.

On the margins of the ABF, over 300 business women gathered to put together a set of recommendations to trade ministers on the specific concerns of business women, and I had the pleasure, with Secretary General Gaviria, to address this group. The Women's Economic Summit of the Americas, which is taking place in Argentina this week, will further expand these recommendations with a view to increasing the participation of women in the FTAA and ABF processes.

In Toronto, it was clear that we need to take the needs and concerns of smaller economies into account as we proceed with economic and trade integration. I would like to recognize the key role played by our colleague, Ambassador Bernal of Jamaica, in working to this end. The Ministerial Declaration reflects these concerns.

First, the ministers instructed vice ministers to immediately begin to examine how to treat differences in levels of development and size in the FTAA and to provide continuing guidance to the Negotiating Groups reporting to ministers in Buenos Aires on progress.

Second, the ministers instructed the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) to take into account during its deliberations, including during the drafting of the Negotiating Group texts, the findings and recommendations of the Consultative Group on Smaller Economies. The Consultative Group will have a charged agenda, and it will fill an important support role for the OAS's Trade Unit. As our Minister said, Canada established a solid base for the negotiations by listening to all voices concerned, in particular smaller economies that want to continue their full participation in the FTAA.

My country was pleased to have been the host of this extraordinary event, and we thank the OAS for all of its assistance over the last 18 months. The baton is now being firmly passed to Argentina, and we pledge our continued support to Argentina in working together to build this very important aspect of the hemispheric community of nations.

Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. I give the floor to the distinguished Representative of the United States.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank José Manuel Salazar, the Special Advisor on Trade, for his report on the activities of the Trade Unit and, in particular, for his interesting comments on the recent Trade Ministerial in Toronto.

U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky has noted that the United States is very pleased at the outcome of the Toronto Trade Ministerial. I congratulate the Special Advisor on Trade and the Trade Unit, as the coordinators of the Tripartite Committee, on making possible the success of the negotiations in Toronto.

The trade ministers made concrete progress in advancing the agenda of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) process and setting the course for the next phase of the negotiations. They did this by directing the nine Negotiating Groups to prepare draft texts of their respective chapters for submission to the ministers at their next meeting in April 2001 in Argentina.

The United States is extremely pleased with the announcement of eight customs measures as the initial package of business facilitation measures, implementation of which begins on January 1, 2000, and with a target completion date of the next ministerial in Argentina. With these positive results, we move an important step forward toward an open and fair trading system in this hemisphere that will benefit workers, companies, and consumers in all of our countries.

Mr. Chairman, we also welcome the shared commitment of the trade ministers to eliminate export subsidies on agricultural products in the World Trade Organization (WTO). This action is just one illustration of how the FTAA and WTO negotiations are mutually supportive. We remain firmly committed to the economic integration of the Hemisphere through the FTAA, even as we pursue trade liberalization in other fora, such as the WTO.

Mr. Chairman, we note that the Toronto Ministerial also marked a major advance in the area of civil society. The ministers welcomed a report to ministers from the Committee of Government Representatives on the Participation of Civil Society that provides a summary of the written submissions from civil society throughout the Hemisphere in response to the Committee's open invitation. We're pleased that the Foreign Trade Information System (SICE) was able to place this report on the FTAA's homepage so quickly after the ministers agreed to make it publicly available. We're also pleased that SICE quickly responded to the ministers' requests to make available on the FTAA's homepage the report of the Joint Government-Private Sector Committee of Experts on Electronic Commerce, which outlines over 40 recommendations on how to expand the benefits and opportunities of the electronic marketplace in the Hemisphere.

Mr. Chairman, this certainly was a very busy and a very productive period for both the FTAA process and the Trade Unit, and we appreciate that this workload will continue in the future.

We'd like to highlight what we view as one of its most important accomplishments: the launching in April of the FTAA Secured Document Distribution Service. I would also like to commend SICE on its support for this important function, as well as its continuing support for the FTAA website.

Mr. Chairman, U.S. trade authorities are still examining the Trade Unit's semiannual report, and they'll do so with great interest. To give the report full consideration, we note that General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 1689 (XXIX-O/99) instructs the General Secretariat to provide semiannual reports on the Trade Unit's activity to the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI), as well as the Permanent Council. Accordingly, we'd like to ask that the report be submitted for review by CEPCIDI or by its Subcommittee on Partnership for Development Policies.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, resolution AG/RES. 1689 also instructs the General Secretariat to submit to the Special Committee on Trade, by November 15 of this year, the year 2000 Work Plan of the Trade Unit or, in the event that it doesn't meet that deadline, to submit it to CEPCIDI. Since it doesn't appear that the Special Committee on Trade will meet in the near future, we'd like to request that the draft work plan be circulated to missions at least two weeks prior to the schedule date for its discussion in CEPCIDI to allow adequate time for its review by each country's trade authorities.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and again our congratulations to Mr. Salazar.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you. The distinguished Representative of Chile has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE CHILE: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Muy brevemente para aprovechar la oportunidad de este informe y agradecerle al señor José Manuel Salazar el completo y sustancioso informe que nos ha proporcionado, el que transmitiremos a las autoridades del gobierno con revisión completa.



No puedo dejar pasar la oportunidad para reiterar el reconocimiento de mi Gobierno a la tarea que ha venido realizando la Unidad de Comercio. Creemos que ha sido una tarea muy profesional. Se trata de un pequeño grupo con una gran capacidad que ha desarrollado un trabajo en beneficio de todos nuestros países y de un proceso multilateral de negociaciones.

Quiero resaltar también la capacidad de trabajo de esta pequeña Unidad con otros organismos internacionales, con el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo y con la CEPAL en el Comité Tripartito. Creemos que esta coordinación de organismos internacionales en afanes comunes evita la duplicidad. Es un modelo que quisiéramos ver repetido en muchas otras áreas temáticas, no solo en el área de comercio.

La Reunión de Toronto ha sido vista muy bien como el término de una primera etapa con una serie de acuerdos y como el inicio de la preparación de un primer borrador de un Acuerdo de Libre Comercio de las Américas. Esperamos que la capacidad técnica demostrada tanto por los organismos internacionales que nos apoyan como por los negociadores de los diversos países se vea pronto respaldada por la capacidad política para lograr acuerdos sustantivos en esta materia. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. I recognize the distinguished Representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE SAINT KITTS Y NEVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Delegation of Saint Kitts and Nevis congratulates the Trade Unit on the presentation of this report, and we thank the Special Advisor on Trade for his excellent summary of the proceedings of the recent Trade Ministerial in Canada.

Again, let me thank publicly Ambassador Bernal of Jamaica for his excellent comments on the process and for working diligently to cement the needs of the smaller economies in the FTAA process. Thank you very much, sir, for your hard work and dedication.

Mr. Chairman, sometimes in this organization we hear all bad news. Today, we have heard good news about the work of the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD) and the Trade Unit. Within our organization, we have nuggets that we can mine to facilitate our ongoing work. We do not always have to go outside to find avenues upon which we can build. The technical assistance offered by the Trade Unit to help smaller economies to more fully participate in the process is commendable.

I believe that we can build on these areas of technical cooperation within this organization. Let us use these examples of technical cooperation in the UPD and the Trade Unit to continue to make the Organization of American States a unique organization in this hemisphere. We don't have to be copycats; we can have a leading role in certain areas in this hemisphere.

I thank you kindly, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Ambassador. I call on the distinguished Representative of Argentina.

EL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LA ARGENTINA: Gracias, señor Presidente. Unas breves palabras para agradecer al Asesor Especial para Asuntos Comerciales, señor José Manuel Salazar, y pedirle que haga extensiva estas felicitaciones a toda la Unidad de Comercio. También quisiera agradecerle su claro, conciso e importante informe escrito, así como el informe oral que acaba de presentarnos en esta sesión. Quisiera agradecerle además el aporte y el respaldo que han hecho continuamente a todo el proceso del ALCA.

La República Argentina tiene la responsabilidad de ordenar el trabajo en los próximos dieciocho meses entre todos los países. Descontamos el apoyo de los países presentes, los que forman parte del ALCA. También esperamos estar a la altura y la capacidad de conducción y de organización que demostró el Canadá en la Reunión Ministerial de Toronto. Los esperamos indudablemente en nuestro país. Estas simples palabras para agradecer, para decir que haremos todo el esfuerzo. Muchísimas gracias.

EL PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. Since there are no further requests to speak, the Chair suggests that the Council take note of the report and forward it to the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) as appropriate. Thank you very much, again, Dr. Salazar, for a very concise and comprehensive report.

#### APROBACIÓN DE ACTA

EL PRESIDENTE: We now move on to item 9, approval of the minutes of the Council meeting held on September 13, 1999 [CP/ACTA 1199/99]. I believe that those minutes have been circulated to you. If delegations are satisfied that those minutes are an accurate record of what transpired at the meeting, I urge you to approve them. Since there are no objections, I declare the minutes approved.

#### DECRETO SOBRE LA PARTICIPACIÓN DE EFECTIVOS CHILENOS EN LAS OPERACIONES DE RESTABLECIMIENTO DE LA PAZ DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

EL PRESIDENTE: We now come to "Other business." I call on the distinguished Representative of Chile.

EL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE CHILE: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. He solicitado el uso de la palabra para informar al Consejo Permanente que el pasado 10 de noviembre se publicó en el diario oficial de la República de Chile el Decreto Supremo N° 68, por medio del cual se promulgó la nueva política nacional sobre participación de Chile en las operaciones de mantenimiento de la paz de las Naciones Unidas. Esta nueva política nacional viene a satisfacer la necesidad de adecuar las normas que solo permitían a Chile participar en operaciones de mantenimiento de la paz consideradas en el capítulo sexto de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas. Las nuevas disposiciones permiten participar asimismo en las denominadas operaciones de restablecimiento de la paz que las Naciones Unidas llevan a cabo en el ámbito del capítulo séptimo de la Carta.

De conformidad con lo señalado en el Instructivo Presidencial anexo al citado Decreto Supremo, la decisión sobre el envío de fuerzas chilenas a una determinada operación de paz la adopta

el Presidente de la República con la anuencia del Senado, cuando corresponda, tomando en consideración el informe conjunto que le presentan los Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores y de Defensa Nacional.

En lo fundamental, la nueva política nacional establece que el mantenimiento y la promoción de la paz mundial constituyen objetivos permanentes de la política exterior chilena, que el Estado de Chile reafirma su compromiso de contribuir de manera activa al esfuerzo en pro de la paz que desarrollan permanentemente las Naciones Unidas, que el Estado de Chile manifiesta su disposición a participar en operaciones de paz impulsadas por las Naciones Unidas y que las operaciones de paz deben de obedecer a un mandato del Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas.

Para implementar esta nueva política, el pasado 11 de noviembre el señor Ministro de Defensa Nacional suscribió en la sede de las Naciones Unidas el Memorándum de Entendimiento por medio del cual el Gobierno de Chile adhiere al Sistema de Acuerdo de Fuerzas de Reserva para Operaciones de Paz de las Naciones Unidas. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

#### ACTOS PREVIOS A LA TRANSFERENCIA DEL CANAL DE PANAMÁ

EL PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. I recognize the distinguished Representative of Panama.

EL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE PANAMÁ: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. He solicitado el uso de la palabra a fin de informarles a los señores miembros de este Consejo Permanente que para el día 14 de diciembre próximo el Gobierno de Panamá realizará una serie de actos previos a la transferencia del Canal de Panamá, hecho este que ocurrirá oficialmente el día 31 de diciembre a las doce mediodía.

Dado que esta fecha coincide con las celebraciones de fin de año y del inicio del nuevo milenio, el Gobierno de Panamá ha decidido hacer un acto protocolar el día 14, con el fin de contar con la presencia de los más altos dignatarios de los Estados miembros de la Organización de los Estados Americanos.

Con este fin, el Gobierno de Panamá ha extendido ya invitaciones a los 33 restantes Gobiernos de los Estados miembros de la Organización para que se hagan representar con delegaciones al más alto nivel en estos actos, que, sin duda alguna, constituyen uno de los acontecimientos más trascendentales y más importantes de este siglo que pronto finaliza.

Panamá y los Estados Unidos escribieron una página brillante en la historia de nuestro hemisferio al probar que, con plena voluntad política y por medio de la negociación pacífica, dos Estados, dos gobiernos, pueden llegar a una solución amistosa a sus diferencias, por más grandes que ellas sean.

Después de la firma de los tratados canaleros efectuada aquí en la sede de la Organización de los Estados Americanos en 1977, Panamá y los Estados Unidos han vivido una etapa de amigos y socios. Ha sido una era de mutua comprensión entre ambos países. El traspaso paulatino de la franja canalera se hizo siempre de acuerdo con los compromisos adquiridos en los Tratados del Canal de Panamá, y los Estados Unidos siempre actuó de acuerdo con lo pactado. Este hecho, único en la

historia de las relaciones entre Panamá y los Estados Unidos y único en la diplomacia interamericana, merece ser celebrado de una manera digna.

Por ello que reitero, a través de los miembros de este Consejo Permanente, la invitación que hace el Gobierno de la excelentísima señora Mireya Moscoso, para que todos los Estados miembros de la Organización de los Estados Americanos asistan con delegaciones al más alto nivel a estos actos, donde se conmemorará el acontecimiento más importante en la historia de la República de Panamá. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much.

#### DEPÓSITO POR PARTE DE NICARAGUA DEL INSTRUMENTO DE RATIFICACIÓN DE CUATRO CONVENIOS EN LA SECRETARÍA GENERAL

El PRESIDENTE: The distinguished Representative of Nicaragua has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE NICARAGUA: Gracias, señor Presidente. Brevemente para informar al Consejo Permanente que el día 9 de noviembre deposité en la Secretaría General de la Organización de los Estados Americanos, representada por el Secretario General, los instrumentos de ratificación de los siguientes convenios: Convención Interamericana contra la Fabricación y el Tráfico Ilícitos de Armas de Fuego, Municiones, Explosivos y Otros Materiales Relacionados, el Protocolo a la Convención Americana sobre Derechos Humanos Relativo a la Abolición de la Pena de Muerte, la Convención Interamericana sobre Personalidad y Capacidad de Personas Jurídicas en Derecho Internacional Privado y el Convenio Básico del Instituto de Nutrición de Centroamérica y Panamá.

De esta manera Nicaragua cumple con la obligación de someter al procedimiento interno de ratificación de las convenciones internacionales que ha suscrito y, una vez realizado este, proceder al depósito del instrumento respectivo. En lo que corresponde a la Convención Interamericana contra la Fabricación y el Tráfico Ilícitos de Armas de Fuego, Municiones, Explosivos y Otros Materiales Relacionados, con el depósito hecho por mi país suman diez los países que se requieren para que el Comité Consultivo celebre su primera reunión ordinaria dentro de los próximos noventa días. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much.

#### EFFECTOS DEL HURACÁN LENNY EN LA REGIÓN DEL CARIBE

El PRESIDENTE: I recognize the distinguished Representative of Antigua and Barbuda.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA: I thank you very kindly.

Mr. Chairman, you might recall that on October 20, Antigua and Barbuda was hit by Hurricane José. We anticipated that by the end of October there would be no more hurricanes—the rule is that by October, they're all over. But as you know, Hurricane Lenny is now threatening

Antigua and Barbuda. We have closed our air and seaports; we have closed our banks except, of course, for the offshore banks; we closed all the schools; essentially, economic activity on Antigua and Barbuda has come to a halt. All of our houses are shuttered and we're just awaiting Lenny's wrath.

Hurricane Lenny's winds are at 140 miles per hour, with some gusts exceeding 200 miles an hour. It's an extraordinarily dangerous category 4 hurricane. Lenny's path is unusual, because it is moving from west to east. Hurricanes usually come across the Atlantic, giving us enough time to prepare, but this one has come across from the Caribbean Sea, threatening several of our neighbors and causing great disruption in air and sea movements throughout the entire Caribbean.

On November 1, when Prime Minister Lester Bird addressed the nation on our independence day, he told the nationals that they can expect erratic and extreme weather events in the future. But on his way back from South Africa today, he said that he had not anticipated that his words would be so prescient. This plague of hurricanes is clearly placing our nation in very great distress.

We are merely informing the Council because we anticipate that when the Council meets next week or the week after—depending on your efficiency, Mr. Chairman—we will be able to tell you whether we suffered any harm and how our organization can help.

Thank you very much, sir.

EL PRESIDENTE: Mr. Ambassador, I'm sure this Council will want me to convey our alarm at the possible effects of Hurricane Lenny on your country, and we do hope that you and your neighbors will avoid injury.

The distinguished Representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis has the floor.

EL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE SAINT KITTS Y NEVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll be very brief. I would also like to inform the Council that at this moment, Saint Kitts and Nevis is being hammered by Hurricane Lenny. We have winds, as the Ambassador just said, of over 135 miles per hour; this is a category 4 hurricane.

I have received reports so far, though not official, that the coastline of the country has been destroyed in some areas; that the deep water harbor that was completed after Hurricane Georges has again been devastated; and that some homes along the coast have been destroyed.

Again, I speak to the Council on this issue of our having to rebuild our infrastructure. We keep saying in this Council that small countries sometimes have to build their infrastructure over and over again. I remember when I was listening to the radio sometime ago as Hurricane Floyd approached Florida, families were packing their vehicles and moving away from the storm. We don't have that kind of luxury in the Caribbean. The Hemisphere will have to be sensitized over and over again about the special circumstances of the smaller nations and economies in the Hemisphere.

Ambassador Hurst, I'd just like to know where you're operating from in terms of your offshore banks at this particular moment [Risais.]. Thank you very much for listening.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Ambassador. Once again, I'm sure that all members here will wish to express regret at the damage that your country is suffering at this time. We trust that the official reports of the damage are not as severe as the informal reports.

Since I have no further requests for the floor, I now declare this meeting adjourned. Thank you very much.

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