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AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS AND  
THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
ON THE FUNCTIONING IN BRIDGETOWN OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARIAT  
IN BARBADOS

(Signed in Bridgetown, Barbados, on June 21, 1969)

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AND THE GOVERNMENT  
OF BARBADOS ON THE FUNCTIONING IN BRISTOL OF  
THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARIAT IN BARBADOS

WHEREAS the Inter-American Committee of Presidential Representatives, in Recommendation No. 25, declared that one of the means for strengthening the action of the Organization of American States, in order to make it a constantly more efficient channel of cooperation between the member states, is the establishment of closer ties between the countries of the Hemisphere through mutual knowledge of their cultural, economic, and social characteristics in the American community, adding that a matter of vital importance to the effective functioning of the Organization is to be assured the understanding, support, and participation of the public;

AND WHEREAS to achieve these objectives the Committee in its recommendation advised that the necessary steps be taken to establish properly organized local offices of the General Secretariat in all the member states;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Organization of American States by a resolution of 3rd June, 1953, authorized the Secretary-General to establish offices in the various member countries;

AND WHEREAS in 1967 Barbados joined the Organization of American States and the Secretary General authorized the establishment of an office in Barbados;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary to conclude an agreement in order to specify the methods of cooperation between the parties and to determine the conditions, facilities, privileges, and immunities that the Government of Barbados will accord the General Secretariat, with respect to the functioning of that office;

NOW THEREFORE the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (hereinafter called "the Secretariat") represented by Senor Gale Plaza and The Government of Barbados (hereinafter called "the Government") represented by the Honourable James Cameron Tudor have agreed as follows:

PART I

PURPOSE AND ESTABLISHING OF THE OFFICE

Article 1. The Government recognizes the Office that the Secretariat has established with due authorization in Bridgetown.

Article 2. The purpose of the Office shall be to serve as a centre for more efficiently promoting and coordinating the activities of the Secretariat. In this connection, the Secretariat will study the possibility of undertaking through the Office such activities of public relations, dissemination of information, liaison and cooperation as the following: programme of information to the public; programme of information to the OAS; collaboration with the Programme of Technical Cooperation; collaboration with the Fellowship Programme; collaboration with the Programme of Direct Technical Assistance; collaboration with the Professorship Programme; collaboration with the Extracontinental Training Programme; collaboration with the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund; printing, promoting, and distributing publications of the Secretariat; maintaining relations with Government officials, assisting them to the extent of its ability; maintaining relations with private national entities to inform them of the work being done by the OAS; collaboration in conferences, meetings, congresses, seminars, and other gatherings, national or international; participation in

inter-American book festivals and other cultural gatherings; relations with youth organizations; contracting personnel for the Secretariat; advising and assisting officials of the OAS who travel on official missions; and other activities that are of a similar nature or that coincide with the general purpose of the Organization.

Article 3. The Office shall act as the secretariat of the National Committee on the Alliance for Progress in Barbados.

Article 4. The Secretariat shall make an annual contribution of funds that it appropriates for the maintenance of the Office in Barbados and of funds that it may decide to assign from its own budget, or from funds that may be made especially available to it for publication or activities that the Secretariat wishes to undertake through the facilities of the Office. The Secretariat shall also furnish all necessary office material, such as desk supplies and equipment.

Article 5. The Office shall be an integral part of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States. The staff assigned to it shall be appointed by the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States.

## PART II

### STATUS, IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES OF OFFICE

Article 6. In accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the Organization of American States, and of the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Organization of American States, the Office shall enjoy, in the territory of Barbados, such legal capacity, privileges, and immunities as are necessary for the exercise of its functions and the accomplishment of its purposes, within the limits prescribed in this Agreement.

Article 7. (1) The Office shall have juridical personality in the territory of Barbados and shall have legal capacity (a) to make contracts; (b) to acquire and dispose of real and personal property; and (c) to institute legal and administrative proceedings.

(11) Whenever the Office initiates a judicial or administrative procedure, the Director thereof shall waive, when duly authorized to do so by the Secretary-General of the OAS, the immunity of jurisdiction recognized in Article 10 of this Agreement. Such waiver shall be made at the beginning of the dispute or proceeding in question, and shall have no effect whatever of a general character, being applicable only in relation to the specific procedure initiated by the Office.

Article 8. The Office shall enjoy in Barbados the independence and freedom of action to which international organizations are entitled according to international custom.

Article 9. The Office, as well as its property, funds and assets, shall enjoy in Barbados immunity from judicial and administrative process, except in those particular cases in which such immunity is expressly waived by the Director of the Office with the due authorization of the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States.

Article 10. The premises, archives and documents of the Office shall be inviolable.

Article 11. (1) The Office, as well as its property, funds and assets shall be exempt from:

- (a) all direct or indirect taxes, except such as represent charges for public utility services;

- (b) customs duties and prohibitions and restrictions on articles equipment or working materials that the office imports or exports for its official use; provided that articles imported under such exemption may not be sold in the country except after two year following their importation;
- (c) customs duties and prohibitions and restrictions on the importation and exportation of its publications.

(11) In the exercise of the right set forth in the preceding sub-paragraph, the Office shall pay due regard to any representations made by the Government, to the extent that it considers such representations may be taken into account without detriment to the interests of the Secretariat.

Article 12. The Office:

- (a) may hold funds or foreign currency of any kind and operate accounts in any currency; and
- (b) shall be free to transfer its funds within or outside of Barbados and to convert the currency held by it into any other currency.

PART III

FACILITIES REGARDING COMMUNICATIONS AND TRAVEL

Article 13. For its official communications, the Secretariat and its Office shall enjoy in Barbados treatment no less favourable than that accorded by the Government to any other Government or international organization with reference to priorities, schedules, rates and direct or indirect taxes for mail, cables, telex, telegrams, radiograms, telephone

service and other communications, as well as special rates for information sent to the press, radio, and television provided such favourable treatment is not incompatible with the provisions of international conventions.

Article 14. The Secretariat and its Office shall have the right to use codes, as well as to send and receive correspondence by courier or in sealed pouches, enjoying in that respect the same privileges and immunities as diplomatic mail couriers, and pouches.

#### PART IV

#### TRAVEL FACILITIES

Article 15. (1) The Government recognizes the official Travel Document issued by the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States as a valid and sufficient document for the travel of officials of the Organization.

(2) The Official Travel Document mentioned in the preceding sub-paragraph does not require a visa for its holder to enter Barbados and remain therein for the duration of his official mission.

(3) Members of the family forming part of the household of the holder of an Official Travel Document shall be given, without delay and without being required to appear personally in the Consulate, Legation, or Embassy of Barbados, and without the payment of any fee, visas in their passports that will permit them to enter the national territory and to remain therein. The Government shall take the steps necessary to accomplish this purpose.

#### PART V

#### PERSONAL IMMUNITIES, PRIVILEGES AND FACILITIES

Article 16. The personnel of the Office shall be immune from administrative or legal process of any kind in

respect of words spoken or written and all acts performed by them in their official capacity.

Article 17. The personnel of the Office shall, if they are not nationals of Barbados:

- (a) be exempt from taxation on the salaries and emoluments paid to them by the Office;
- (b) be exempt from all national service obligations;
- (c) be given together with members of their family forming part of their respective households every facility compatible with the immigration laws;
- (d) be allowed to import and export, every two years, free of duty or tax, their furniture, effects and other goods, including for personnel or family use, one automobile, subject to the current laws of the country on the subject.

Article 18. The Director of the Office shall notify the Government of the officials and other staff members who are entitled to the benefits listed in Articles 16 and 17.

Article 19. Privileges and immunities are granted to the Director and personnel in the interest of the Office only. Consequently the Director of the Office, duly authorized to do so by the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, shall waive the privileges and immunities of any employee in any case where, in the judgment of the Secretary-General, the exercise thereof would impede the course of justice and when such waiver can be without prejudice to the interest of the Office and the Secretariat.

Article 20. (1) The Secretary-General, the Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization, and members of their families forming part of their households shall enjoy the privileges immunities and facilities that are granted to heads of diplomatic missions.

(ii) The Assistant Secretaries of the Organization, the Directors and Deputy Directors of Departments and Offices of the Secretariat, shall enjoy the privileges immunities and facilities that are granted to officials of the Office. Other officials of the Secretariat, including experts and professors, shall enjoy the same privileges immunities and facilities during their stay in the country.

PART VI

COOPERATION AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Article 21. The Office shall cooperate with the competent authorities of the country to facilitate the proper administration of justice, to see that the police regulations and ordinances are obeyed, and to prevent abuses of the privileges, immunities and facilities mentioned in this Agreement.

Article 22. The Office shall take whatever steps may be necessary for the appropriate settlement of:

- (a) disputes arising out of contracts or other disputes of a private-law character to which the Office is a party; and
- (b) disputes involving any employee of the Office with reference to which immunity is enjoyed provided that the Director, duly authorized for this purpose by the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, shall not have waived this immunity in accordance with Article 20.

PART VII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 23. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed as precluding the adoption of appropriate security measures in the interest of the Government.

Article 24. This Agreement may be modified or expanded at the request of either party after prior consultation on the proposed modification or expansion, and provided both parties agree.

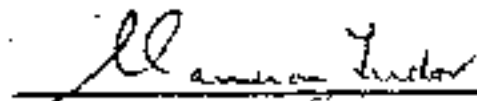
Article 25. This Agreement shall enter into force on the day it is signed by both parties.

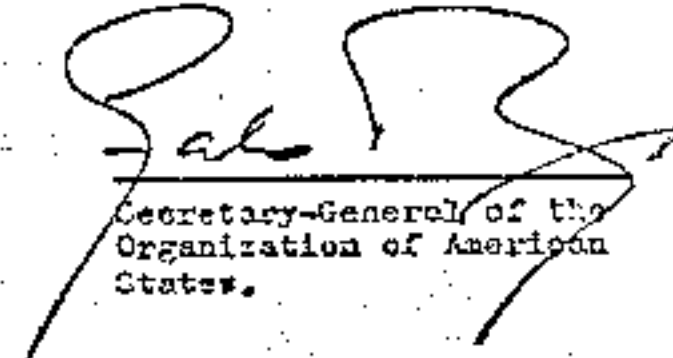
Article 26. Either of the parties may terminate this Agreement by notifying the other in writing one year in advance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned have signed this Agreement in duplicate at Bridgetown, Barbados on this 21st day of June, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-nine.

For the Government of Barbados:

For The General Secretariat  
of the Organization of  
American States:

  
Minister of State for  
Caribbean and Latin American  
Affairs and Deputy Prime  
Minister.

  
Secretary-General of the  
Organization of American  
States.