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**FIFTH MEETING
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CONSULTATION
of
MINISTERS
of
FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

SANTIAGO, CHILE • AUGUST 12-18, 1959

F I N A L A C T

1960

THE DECLARATION OF SANTIAGO, CHILE

The Fifth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs,

EXPRESSING the general aspiration of the American peoples to live in peace under the protection of democratic institutions, free from all intervention and all totalitarian influence; and

WHEREAS:

The faith of the peoples of America in the effective exercise of representative democracy is the best vehicle for the promotion of their social and political progress (Resolution XCV of the Tenth Inter-American Conference), while well-planned and intensive development of the economies of the American countries and improvement in the standard of living of their peoples represent the best and firmest foundation on which the practical exercise of democracy and the stabilization of their institutions can be established (Resolutions of the Special Committee to Study the Formulation of New Measures for Economic Cooperation);

In Resolution XXXII, the Ninth International Conference of American States, for the purpose of safeguarding peace and maintaining mutual respect among states, resolved, among other things, to reaffirm their decision to maintain and further an effective social and economic policy for the purpose of raising the standard of living of their peoples, and their conviction that only under a system founded upon a guarantee of the essential freedoms and rights of the individual is it possible to attain this goal; and to condemn the methods of every system tending to suppress political and civil rights and liberties, and in particular the action of international communism or any other totalitarian doctrine;

In Resolution XCV, the Tenth Inter-American Conference resolved to unite the efforts of all the American States to apply, develop, and perfect the principles of the inter-American system, so that they would form the basis of firm and solidary action designed to attain, within a short time,

the effective realization of the representative democratic system, the rule of social justice and security, and the economic and cultural cooperation essential to the mutual well-being and prosperity of the peoples of the Continent;

Harmony among the American republics can be effective only insofar as human rights and fundamental freedoms and the exercise of representative democracy are a reality within each one of them, since experience has demonstrated that the lack of respect for such principles is a source of widespread disturbance and gives rise to emigrations that cause frequent and grave political tensions between the state that they leave and the states that receive them;

The existence of anti-democratic regimes constitutes a violation of the principles on which the Organization of American States is founded, and a danger to united and peaceful relationships in the hemisphere; and

It is advisable to state, with no attempt to be complete, some of the principles and attributes of the democratic system in this hemisphere, so as to permit national and international public opinion to gauge the degree of identification of political regimes and governments with that system, thus contributing to the eradication of forms of dictatorship, despotism, or tyranny, without weakening respect for the right of peoples freely to choose their own form of government,

DECLARES:

1. The principle of the rule of law should be assured by the separation of powers, and by the control of the legality of governmental acts by competent organs of the state.
2. The governments of the American republics should be the result of free elections.
3. Perpetuation in power, or the exercise of power without a fixed term and with the manifest intent of perpetuation, is incompatible with the effective exercise of democracy.
4. The governments of the American states should maintain a system of freedom for the individual and of social justice based on respect for fundamental human rights.
5. The human rights incorporated into the legislation of the American states should be protected by effective judicial procedures.
6. The systematic use of political prescription is contrary to American democratic order.
7. Freedom of the press, radio, and television, and, in general, freedom of information and expression, are essential conditions for the existence of a democratic regime.

8. The American states, in order to strengthen democratic institutions, should cooperate among themselves within the limits of their resources and the framework of their laws so as to strengthen and develop their economic structure, and achieve just and humane living conditions for their peoples; and

RESOLVES:

That this declaration shall be known as "The Declaration of Santiago, Chile."