

ROBERTO RIBEIRO/OAS ARCHIVES (3)



Belize and Guatemala Build Confidence

TWO OAS MEMBER states, Belize and Guatemala, are moving forward to resolve their longstanding "territorial differendum." The negotiations are being guided by a panel of facilitators, installed during a ceremony at OAS headquarters on August 31.

The facilitators—Guyanese diplomat Sir Shridath Ramphal, appointed by Belize, and U.S. attorney Paul Reichler, appointed by Guatemala—conducted initial visits to Belize and Guatemala in September to gain a broader understanding of the issues that have divided the two neighbors.

The facilitators have "the enormous responsibility to contribute to the search for formulas for the peaceful and definitive solution to the territorial differendum," Secretary General César Gaviria said at the panel's installation.

Gaviria recalled that when tensions escalated between Belize and Guatemala earlier

Ambassador Assad Shoman of Belize, left, and Gabriel Orellana Rojas, Guatemala's minister of foreign affairs, right, celebrate the growing cooperation between their two nations

this year, the two countries "took the courageous decision to begin a constructive dialogue on the matter and to reduce tensions."

Delegations from the two countries met at the OAS first in March, then again in May and in July, to further the dialogue.

"Because of the clear and undisputed willingness and good faith demonstrated by both governments, I am confident that an acceptable settlement will be reached," Gaviria said.

At the invitation of both countries, the Secretary General is serving as a witness of honor to the process, convening the bilateral meetings and making recommendations where appropriate.

After the August 31 ceremony, the delegations of both countries met for several hours to review the progress to date and to discuss how the process will be carried out in the future. Belize's delegation was headed by Assad Shoman, a

senior ambassador with ministerial rank; Guatemala's was led by its minister of foreign affairs, Gabriel Orellana Rojas.

In a joint communiqué, they announced agreement on several procedural matters and said they would address all issues related to the differendum "solely within the framework of this process while it is under way, to the exclusion of any other political, diplomatic, or judicial forum." They also pledged that both countries would exercise caution and restraint, avoiding "incidents on the ground conducive to tension between them."

During a previous ministerial-level meeting, the two countries had agreed to a series of confidence-building measures, military contacts, and cooperation pending a resolution of the differendum. They also agreed to a policy meeting between their defense ministers, which took place August 12, and to the terms of reference for the panel of facilitators as well as a bilateral mixed commission to oversee the implementation of the confidence-building measures.

Screens of the Hemisphere

THE 2000 LATIN American Film Festival, which was held in October in Washington, D.C., opened with the U.S. debut of

the Brazilian film *Oriundi* starring Anthony Quinn.

The veteran actor, director Ricardo Brabo, and producer Rubén Genua attended the festival. A special guest was Mar Kodama, the widow of Argentine writer Jorge Borges, whose life is depicted in the film *Borges and Nights*.

The festival, held at the American Film Institute Theater at the Kennedy Center, featured nine recent films from Brazil; Argentina, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Spain, and Venezuela.

Among the films shown were *Ave Maria*, from Peru; *The Bait*, from Peru; *Enthusiasm*, from Uruguay; and *Vineyard*, from Uruguay.

This was the third year for the event, organized by the Cultural Foundation of the American Film Institute and the Association of American Cultural Centers.

"This is an important highlight Latin American culture in the U.S. capital," said Ana Milena de Gaviria, president of the Cultural Foundation of the American Film Festival.

Sponsors of the American Film Festival

Anthony Quinn plays an aging patriarch and Meryl Bueno his caretaker and confidante in Oriundi, which had its U.S. debut in October at the 2000 Latin American Film Festival. Quinn was a guest of honor at the press opening at the OAS



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