

CONSEJO PERMANENTE



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ACTA
DE LA SESIÓN PROTOCOLAR
CELEBRADA
EL 17 DE ABRIL DE 2001

En honor de la visita del excelentísimo señor George W. Bush,
Presidente de los Estados Unidos de América

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CONSEJO PERMANENTE DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS

ACTA DE LA SESIÓN PROTOCOLAR CELEBRADA EL 17 DE ABRIL DE 2001

En la ciudad de Washington, a la una de la tarde del martes 17 de abril de 2001, celebró sesión protocolar el Consejo Permanente de la Organización de los Estados Americanos en honor de la visita del excelentísimo señor George W. Bush, Presidente de los Estados Unidos de América. Presidió la sesión el Embajador Humberto de la Calle Lombana, Representante Permanente de Colombia y Presidente del Consejo Permanente. Asistieron los siguientes miembros:

Embajador Hernán R. Castro H., Representante Permanente de Costa Rica y Vicepresidente del Consejo Permanente
Embajador Kingsley C.A. Layne, C.M.G., Representante Permanente de San Vicente y las Granadinas
Embajador Richard Bernal, Representante Permanente de Jamaica
Embajadora Laura Elena Núñez de Ponce, Representante Permanente de Honduras
Embajador Diego Abente Brun, Representante Permanente del Paraguay
Embajador Luis J. Lauredo, Representante Permanente de los Estados Unidos
Embajador Joshua Sears, Representante Permanente del Commonwealth de las Bahamas
Embajador Valter Pecly Moreira, Representante Permanente del Brasil
Embajador Esteban Tomic Errázuriz, Representante Permanente de Chile
Embajador Blasco Peñaherrera, Representante Permanente del Ecuador
Embajador Juan Enrique Fischer, Representante Permanente del Uruguay
Embajador Juan Manuel Castulovich, Representante Permanente de Panamá
Embajador Lombardo Martínez Cabezas, Representante Permanente de Nicaragua
Embajador Manuel Rodríguez Cuadros, Representante Permanente del Perú
Embajador Raúl Alberto Ricardes, Representante Permanente de la Argentina
Embajador Miguel Ruíz Cabañas, Representante Permanente de México
Embajador Jorge Valero Briceño, Representante Permanente de Venezuela
Ministro Consejero Jean Ricot Dorméus, Representante Interino de Haití
Ministro Consejero Kevin M. Isaac, Representante Interino de Saint Kitts y Nevis
Segundo Secretario Henry Leonard Mac-Donald, Representante Interino de Suriname
Ministro Consejero Luis Menéndez Castro, Representante Interino de El Salvador
Consejero David Bulbulia, Representante Interino de Barbados
Primera Secretaria Deborah Yaw, Representante Interina de Guyana
Primera Secretaria Michaele C. Samuel, Representante Interina de Grenada
Ministro Consejero Starret D. Greene, Representante Interino de Antigua y Barbuda
Consejero David L. Keithlin, Representante Interino del Canadá
Consejero Guido Quevedo, Representante Interino de Bolivia
Ministra Consejera Yessenia Soto, Representante Interina de la República Dominicana
Ministra Consejera Alma Gladys Cordero López, Representante Alterna de Guatemala
Primera Secretaria Jennifer Marchand, Representante Alterna de Trinidad y Tobago
Ministro Consejero Nestor Mendez, Representante Alterno de Belice

También estuvieron presentes el Secretario General de la Organización, doctor César Gaviria, y el Secretario General Adjunto, Embajador Luigi R. Einaudi, Secretario del Consejo Permanente.

El PRESIDENTE: Declaro abierta la presente sesión protocolar del Consejo Permanente de la Organización de los Estados Americanos, convocada en honor del excelentísimo señor George W. Bush, Presidente de los Estados Unidos de América.

[El Presidente de los Estados Unidos ingresa al salón, acompañado por su comitiva.]
[Aplausos.]

PALABRAS DEL SECRETARIO GENERAL

El PRESIDENTE: Conforme al orden del día, me es grato conceder la palabra al excelentísimo señor César Gaviria, Secretario General de la Organización de los Estados Americanos.

El SECRETARIO GENERAL: His Excellency George W. Bush, President of the United States of America; Mr. Foreign Minister of Nicaragua; members of the U.S. Delegation; Mr. Chairman of the Permanent Council; Mr. Assistant Secretary General; heads of delegation; ambassadors; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

President Bush, it is a pleasure for me to welcome you to this House of the Americas only a few weeks after your inauguration and a few short days before the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City, Canada.

During your presidential campaign, you talked about strengthening relations between the United States and the countries south of the Rio Grande. In the weeks since you took office, you have sent clear signals that you stand by your campaign commitment and that fomenting good relations is indeed a priority for your administration. You have personally reached out to hemispheric leaders, proposing new policies and fostering a climate of close cooperation. In this spirit, your administration has responded quickly and effectively to the earthquakes that struck El Salvador earlier this year and to Colombia's enormous challenges.

We at the Organization of American States are encouraged by your strong support for the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) Agreement. This trade pact will open new doors of opportunity for the people of this hemisphere, from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego.

Mr. President, with the end of the Cold War, we have left behind an era of pessimism, mistrust, and political confrontation. We have built a community of common values, visions, and aspirations. The result has been a new political reality and a healthier balance in the relationship between Latin America and the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean. This relationship has grown and deepened in recent years, and the OAS has become the center for political dialogue in this hemisphere, the forum where we can come together to confront our common problems and challenges.

Defending and promoting democracy has become our organization's guiding principle. We have rapidly and effectively responded to attempts to alter the constitutional order in member states. The Organization's electoral observation missions have helped to ensure the integrity, objectivity, and reliability of the electoral process in many of our member states. These missions have contributed to a climate of trust, legitimacy, transparency, and citizen participation. The United States has been a strong ally in these endeavors.

Nevertheless, we cannot claim that democracy is strong everywhere. In many of our democracies, our political institutions are weak and citizens are feeling disenchantment, skepticism, and diminished hope for the future. They need to see that democracy makes their lives better. It is our collective responsibility to help make this happen.

With the effective work of the inter-American system, we have also made considerable progress on human rights. We are adopting a new generation of rights to protect the most vulnerable of our citizens, including children, women, migrant workers, indigenous peoples, and families. We have also defined freedom of expression and freedom of the press. At the same time, we are forging a new relationship with civil society.

The OAS has worked to confront the enemies of democracy—drug trafficking, corruption, violence, insecurity, and extreme poverty. The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) is a new tool that measures the progress of each country and the entire region in the fight against illegal drugs. This instrument is already leading to greater cooperation to address this problem in a way that respects the principles of the OAS's Charter. We have moved forward on this issue by acknowledging that all nations share responsibility for the drug problem and have a common interest in working together.

We have also made significant progress in bringing about peaceful solutions to disputes between states. In this post-Cold War era, we are reframing security issues to take into account the concerns of all of our countries and subregions.

Mr. President, the citizens of the Americas have made clear what they want: peace and democracy; equality, justice, and freedom; preservation of the environment; growth and prosperity. We will respond to those demands.

Thank you.

[Aplausos.]

PALABRAS DEL PRESIDENTE DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE

El PRESIDENTE DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE: Señor Presidente, señores Embajadores, ilustres miembros del Gobierno americano, señor Ministro de Nicaragua, señoras y señores:

Es para este Consejo Permanente especialmente grato recibir la visita del Presidente de los Estados Unidos de América, señor George W. Bush; y lo es por muchas razones pero, principalmente, por lo que significa para nuestra Organización y para nuestro continente el compromiso de un país como el que usted representa con los principios que rigen e inspiran al sistema interamericano.

A través de nuestra Carta, los pueblos de las Américas han encontrado una constante preocupación por la defensa de sus derechos y por la realización de sus garantías sociales, culturales y políticas. Es una Carta en donde lo importante no es el Estado sino la persona misma. En ella los ciudadanos, cualquiera sea su raza, género o creencia, ven que sus Estados no conciben el mundo con

discriminación. El ciudadano entiende que sus Estados no imaginan la convivencia política sin democracia ni derechos humanos. Entienden además, todos estos ciudadanos, que dicha Carta es también un tratado de cooperación entre sus mismos Estados; un tratado en donde ellos se obligan a hacer, dentro del marco de sus peculiares posibilidades, todos los esfuerzos que sean necesarios para eliminar el atraso jurídico, social, económico y cultural.

Su visita, señor Presidente, se realiza en la antesala de la Cumbre de Quebec, hacia la cual convergen hoy los ojos del Hemisferio entero. Como usted mismo lo ha afirmado en numerosos encuentros con líderes de las Américas, es claro que nuestro esfuerzo integracionista cubre muchos frentes, pero entre ellos ocupa lugar destacado el incremento del comercio y la apertura de mayores mercados para nuestros productos. No necesitamos ayuda, necesitamos mercados; esa será la mejor respuesta y la herramienta más eficaz para combatir el atraso y la pobreza.

El mundo ha entendido que las organizaciones criminales dedicadas al negocio de la droga constituyen un peligro para las instituciones. Atrás debe quedar la idea de que se trata de la comisión de delitos en el territorio de algunos Estados, a los cuales se les responsabiliza y se les aísla. La corresponsabilidad en el tratamiento de las drogas ilegales implica una visión global que incluye todos los aspectos del problema: la producción, el consumo y los demás delitos conexos.

Es necesario, igualmente, prestar atención a los programas de desarrollo alternativo, lo cual no siempre significa generar nuevos renglones de producción en las zonas afectadas, sino muchas veces preservar cultivos ya existentes, cuya situación crítica genera desarreglos en la economía general de muchos países, lo cual favorece la acción de grupos ilegales. Tal es el caso del café, cuyos precios actuales están por debajo de los niveles del año 1821.

Señor Presidente, las acciones de la OEA en el tema de la droga revisten importancia superlativa, así como el establecimiento y perfeccionamiento del Mecanismo de Evaluación Multilateral de los esfuerzos hemisféricos en el combate contra las drogas ilícitas.

Por fin, la protección de los derechos humanos es el corazón de la vida civilizada; el mejoramiento de los sistemas para su defensa en el sistema interamericano es una tarea esencial, lo cual debe incluir mayores espacios para la actuación de las víctimas.

Mr. President, your presence here is an outstanding contribution to the attainment of these objectives. It symbolizes the strengthening of ties between your government and this organization—the primary political forum for dialogue among all countries of the Hemisphere on the basis of equality and mutual respect. We hope that the mandates to be issued by the Summit will also be conducive to promoting a strong, revitalized OAS.

Welcome again, Mr. President. This Council will pay close attention to what you have to say.

[Aplausos.]

PALABRAS DEL PRESIDENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS

EL PRESIDENTE: Tiene la palabra el señor Presidente de los Estados Unidos de América.

EL PRESIDENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. Mr. Secretary General, *distinguidos Embajadores, es un placer para mí estar aquí con la OEA*. Thank you for having me.

Before I begin, I want to recognize Ambassador Luigi Einaudi. He has ably served our government for decades. He is now in his field of experience in the Organization of American States. It is clear that he and the Secretary General make a very good team. Thank you, Mr. Ambassador. [Aplausos.]

As I prepared to go to the Summit of the Americas in Quebec, I thought it was important to make a visit to the House of the Americas. I just had a good meeting with the Secretary General in which we discussed the future of the OAS and its important role and the opportunities and challenges that our hemisphere faces. Today I want to speak with you about our shared future and the important role the OAS will play in helping to shape it.

Our gathering in Quebec comes at a remarkable moment in history. All the nations of this hemisphere, save one, have embraced the collective commitment to democracy and to the fundamental freedoms that underlie democracy. We have embraced the collective challenge to build a hemisphere that trades in freedom and grows in prosperity. We have embraced the collective responsibility to break down the barriers of poverty, disease, and ignorance so that individuals may better realize their full, God-given potential.

The OAS has an important role to play in these common goals. In lands where liberty is threatened by corruption, drugs, and human rights abuses, the OAS is helping to combat these destructive forces. Along borders where tensions run high, the OAS helps build confidence and avoid crises, and in lands where freedom's hold is fragile, the OAS is there to strengthen it.

The OAS's recent work in Peru is an example of this organization's commitment to democracy. The election held there on April 8 was peaceful and well run, and we know that this is a direct result of the Secretary General's involvement. Our hemisphere is grateful, Mr. Secretary General.

We need to build on successes like this. The United States hopes, for example, that the OAS can serve as a valuable mediator in Haiti between President Aristide and the democratic opposition.

We also need to build on the progress that the OAS has made in the fight against drug trafficking and abuse. Thanks to the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), our hemisphere is more united in addressing this problem, both regarding supply and demand, than it has ever been before. The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) for monitoring nations' progress in fighting drugs is a major achievement.

As we head to the Quebec Summit, our goal is simple, yet profound. The discussions we hold and the mandates we produce must help improve the lives of people throughout our hemisphere. A summit is given meaning and value by concrete results. We must strengthen the democratic institutions in this hemisphere to give reality to the forms of democracy. This means improving judicial institutions and making government more open. Good government is essential to building the trust of our citizens.

Democratic values must remain the core of our hemispheric *familia*, as Prime Minister Chrétien so aptly said in this very hall last February. We must ensure that the smaller economies are provided the assistance they need to implement trade agreements and to realize the full benefits of a more integrated hemisphere.

We must extend the benefits of education in this hemisphere. Both development and democracy in the long term depend on education. We must build the skills and reward the hopes of all our people.

We must affirm our commitment to complete negotiations on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) by January 2005. Nothing we do in Quebec will be more important or have a greater long-term impact. It will make our hemisphere the largest free trade area in the world, encompassing 34 countries and eight hundred million people.

There is a vital link between freedom of people and freedom of commerce. Democratic freedoms cannot flourish unless our hemisphere also builds a prosperity whose benefits are widely shared. Open trade is an essential foundation for that prosperity and that possibility. Open trade fuels the engines of economic growth that create new jobs and new incomes. It applies the power of markets to the needs of the poor. It spurs the process of economic and legal reform. It helps dismantle protectionist bureaucracies that stifle incentive and invite corruption. Open trade reinforces the habits of liberty that sustain democracy over the long term.

For all these reasons, my administration is committed to pursuing open trade at every opportunity. We will pursue open trade bilaterally with individual nations, such as Chile, Singapore, and Jordan. We will pursue open trade globally through a new round of multilateral negotiations. We want to open global markets so that our farmers, ranchers, service providers, and high-tech entrepreneurs can enjoy the benefits of a more integrated world. Of course, we will pursue these goals throughout our hemisphere through the FTAA.

Since open trade is one of my top priorities for our hemisphere, gaining U.S. trade promotion authority is one of my top priorities in Congress. I made this clear in my first address to Congress. We have reinforced this message in meetings that my cabinet officers and I have had with over one hundred members of Congress. Trade promotion authority gives our trading partners confidence that they can rely on the deals that they negotiate. It allows us to seize opportunities to expand the circle of trade and prosperity. We are actively working with Congress on a strategy for passing legislation granting the trade promotion authority. We will intensify this effort when I return from Quebec, and I am confident that we will succeed.

Shortly after the Summit, we will also publish the initial working draft of our hemispheric free trade agreement. This is for all of our citizens from all our countries to see what is being negotiated and to give them a chance to provide their views on this important document.

Just a few moments ago, the Secretary General and I walked from his office past the Hall of Heroes. The great leaders honored there embody the spirit of cooperation that characterizes the OAS. These visionaries imagined a future in which the Americas would be bound together in a common effort to create a hemisphere that is both free and prosperous. Today, we have the opportunity to realize that dream; together, it is our responsibility to seize the moment.

Thank you for having me.

[Aplausos.]

El PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente, por su mensaje que hemos escuchado con interés. En nombre de los miembros del Consejo Permanente de la OEA expreso a usted nuestro reconocimiento por su visita.

Ruego a los Embajadores y Representantes permanecer en sus lugares hasta que el señor Presidente de los Estados Unidos de América haya saludado a todos alrededor de la mesa.

[El Presidente de los Estados Unidos abandona el salón.] [Aplausos.]

Se levanta la sesión.

