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SIXTEENTH MEETING  
OF CONSULTATION  
OF  
MINISTERS  
OF  
FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS

SERVING AS ORGAN OF CONSULTATION IN APPLICATION OF  
THE INTER-AMERICAN TREATY OF RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE

JULY 29, 1975

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

FINAL ACT

FINAL ACT

SIXTEENTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
SERVING AS ORGAN OF CONSULTATION IN APPLICATION OF THE  
INTER-AMERICAN TREATY OF RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE

Introduction

The Sixteenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, serving as Organ of Consultation in application of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, was held in San José, Costa Rica, on July 29, 1975.

The meeting was convoked by a resolution of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States, adopted at the special meeting held in San José, on July 25, 1975. The text of the resolution is as follows:

WHEREAS:

The Council has taken cognizance of the note received from the representatives of Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela (CP/doc. 463/75), wherein their governments request the convocation of a Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to serve as Organ of Consultation in application of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, to study the following matter, which they consider urgent and of common concern:

"Freedom of action of the States Parties to the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance to normalize or conduct their relations with the Republic of Cuba at the level and in the manner that each State deems advisable";

The Council has also taken note of the various statements made by the representatives in the course of the meeting opened by that organ on July 25, 1975; and

The Government of Costa Rica has stated that it would be pleased to host the Meeting of Consultation in San José, starting on July 29, 1975,

THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

RESOLVES:

1. To convoke a Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to serve as Organ of Consultation in application of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, to study the following

matter: "Freedom of action of the States Parties to the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance to normalize or conduct their relations with the Government of Cuba at the level and in the manner that each State deems advisable."

2. To thank the Government of Costa Rica and accept its generous offer to host the Meeting of the Organ of Consultation in San José, beginning on July 29, 1975.

3. To transmit the text of this resolution to the Security Council of the United Nations and to keep it informed of any decisions taken by the Meeting.

The Sixteenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs was attended by the ministers and special delegates of the States Parties listed below, in the order of precedence established by lot at the closed preliminary session held on July 29, 1975:

- |                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Trinidad and Tobago | 12. Uruguay    |
| 2. Guatemala           | 13. Ecuador    |
| 3. Bolivia             | 14. Haiti      |
| 4. United States       | 15. Paraguay   |
| 5. Panama              | 16. Nicaragua  |
| 6. El Salvador         | 17. Mexico     |
| 7. Peru                | 18. Venezuela  |
| 8. Argentina           | 19. Colombia   |
| 9. Chile               | 20. Brazil     |
| 10. Honduras           | 21. Costa Rica |
| 11. Dominican Republic |                |

Also present were Mr. Cecil Beaumont Williams and Miss Patricia Durrant, who participated as observers from Barbados and Jamaica, respectively, as provided in Chapter VII (paragraph 1) of the Regulations.

Also attending, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VII (paragraph 3) of the aforementioned Regulations, were the Permanent Observers of the Federal Republic of Germany, Spain, Canada, Israel, and Japan.

In accordance with operative paragraph 1 of Resolution XXXIX of the Ninth International Conference of American States, the United Nations was represented by an observer.

His Excellency Daniel Oduber Quirós, the President of Costa Rica, formally opened the meeting on the afternoon of July 29, 1975.

His Excellency Gonzalo J. Facio, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, was designated by his Government as provisional President of the Sixteenth Meeting of Consultation and was elected permanent President at the opening plenary session held on July 29, 1975.



In accordance with Article 9 of the Regulations of the Meeting, the Government of Costa Rica designated Mr. Jorge Luis Zelaya Coronado, Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States, to serve as Secretary General of the Meeting.

The proceedings were governed by the Regulations of the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, acting as Organ of Consultation in Application of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, approved by the Council of the Organization in 1960, with the amendments adopted by the Permanent Council of the Organization at the meeting held on July 25, 1975.

The Meeting appointed a Committee on Credentials, made up of the delegations of Paraguay (Chairman), Ecuador and Honduras. A Style Committee composed of the delegations of Colombia, Brazil, the United States, and Haiti was also designated.

In accordance with Article 20 of the Regulations, a General Committee was established, composed of all the members and responsible for considering all matters.

During the discussions, a draft resolution was presented by the delegations of Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela (Doc.5/75).

This draft resolution was put to a vote at the first meeting of the General Committee, held on July 29, 1975, with the following results: Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States and Venezuela voted in favor; Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay voted against; Brazil and Nicaragua abstained. Consequently, the majority required for approval in accordance with the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance was obtained.

At the closing session, which took place on July 29, 1975, the Meeting was addressed by His Excellency General Miguel Angel de la Flor Valle, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, who spoke on behalf of the participating ministers and special delegates, and by His Excellency Gonzalo J. Facio, President of the Sixteenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

As a consequence of its deliberations, the Sixteenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, acting as Organ of Consultation in application of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, approved the following resolutions:

RESOLUTIONS

I

FREEDOM OF ACTION OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE INTER-AMERICAN TREATY OF RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE TO NORMALIZE OR CONDUCT THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA AT THE LEVEL AND IN THE MANNER THAT EACH STATE DEEMS ADVISABLE

THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ACTING AS ORGAN OF CONSULTATION IN APPLICATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TREATY OF RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE (RIO TREATY),

CONSIDERING:

That the States Parties to the Rio Treaty have reasserted their allegiance to the principles of inter-American solidarity and cooperation, nonintervention, and reciprocal assistance set forth in the Rio Treaty and the Charter of the OAS, and

DESIRING:

To further inter-American relations in the broadest possible sense,

RESOLVES:

1. To solemnly reaffirm the principle of nonintervention and to call upon the States Parties to ensure its observance in this hemisphere, in accordance with the Charter of the Organization, for which purpose they once again proclaim their solidarity and reiterate their intention to cooperate at all times with a view to fully realizing the goals of a policy of peace.

2. To leave the States Parties to the Rio Treaty free to normalize or conduct their relations with the Republic of Cuba at the level and in the manner that each State deems advisable, in accordance with each one's national policy and interests.

3. To transmit the text of this resolution to the Security Council of the United Nations.