

Establishment of Diplomatic Relations
Between Belize and Guatemala

Remarks of Ambassador Luigi R. Einaudi
U.S. Permanent Representative

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Mr. Chairman, the United States applauds the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between Guatemala and Belize. My delegation congratulates all parties involved in the negotiations leading to this event for their skill and determination. We believe the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries is a positive signal for stability, development, and peace throughout the region.

Mr. Chairman, the United States perceives these developments as confirming the positive new trend imparted to the history of Central America by the assertion of democratic currents throughout the isthmus. The spirit of cooperation and goodwill among neighbors that results from the democratic politics is one of the driving forces behind this diplomatic milestone and the more peaceful and productive relations it portends.

We must also recognize that the new relationship developing between Guatemala and Belize is also a tribute to the personal efforts of their leaders, President Jorge Serrano of Guatemala and Prime Minister George Price of Belize. Last month, my government applauded the statement of President Serrano recognizing the right of the people of Belize to self-determination and affirming the Guatemalan people's desire "to live in peace and harmony with their neighbors."

President Serrano's bold and forward-looking actions express the vision of a statesman determined to build a more peaceful future for all Guatemalans. His leadership has been indispensable to the new relationship opening for Guatemala with Belize and clearing the stage for a Central America working in full partnership for the common good.

Mr. Chairman, the United States congratulates both President Serrano and Prime Minister Price for their determination to resolve long-standing problems to the benefit of both their peoples.

For all of us, this Special Session of the Permanent Council embodies the meaning of inter-American solidarity -- a solidarity which reaches beyond the differences of geography and history, culture and language to advance shared values and common interests.

On behalf of my government, I join others here in supporting the resolution before this Special Session of the Permanent Council today. The resolution as now formulated recognizes this watershed event in keeping with the interests and principles of our Charter. We have every reason to applaud and support the growing friendship and cooperation between Belize and Guatemala and the enhanced prospects for amity, peace and development throughout the region.