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DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS
BETWEEN STATES

Letter dated 22 January 1986 from the Permanent Representatives
of Argentina and Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

We have the honour to send you herewith the text of the "Declaration of Iguazú", signed on 30 November 1985 at Foz do Iguacu, Brazil, by the President of the Argentine Republic, Mr. Raúl Alfonsín, and the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Mr. José Sarney, and to request that this text be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States".

(Signed) Carlos Manuel MUÑIZ
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Argentine Republic

(Signed) George A. MACIEL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Federative Republic
of Brazil

ANNEX

Declaration of Iguazú, signed on 30 November 1985 at Foz do Iguazu
by the Presidents of Argentina and Brazil

1. On 29 November 1985 the President of the Argentine Republic, Mr. Raúl Ricardo Alfonsín, and the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Mr. José Sarney, solemnly inaugurated the international bridge linking the town of Puerto Meira in Brazil to the town of Puerto Iguazú in the Argentine Republic.
2. As announced at the appropriate time, the Governments of Argentina and Brazil agreed to name the joint construction the "President Tancredo Neves Bridge", as a tribute to the late Brazilian statesman and in recognition of his political career, devoted to democratic values and to Latin American solidarity and co-operation.
3. On that occasion, the Heads of State held a working meeting at Puerto Iguazú, Argentina, and at Foz do Iguazu, Brazil, holding talks on subjects of common interest which lasted until 30 November.
4. During the talks, which took place in a very cordial and amicable atmosphere, the Presidents of Argentina and Brazil congratulated one another on the inauguration of the President Tancredo Neves Bridge and emphasized its great significance as a real and symbolic link uniting the two nations. They also stressed its importance for the development of the region, giving concrete expression to the legitimate aspirations of the population on both sides of the border.
5. In particular, they drew attention to the fact that the bridge was the first structure of its kind built between Argentina and Brazil since the inauguration in 1947 of the international bridge linking the towns of Paso de Libres and Uruguayana. In that regard, the President Tancredo Neves Bridge represented a significant milestone in the process of the physical integration of the two countries, providing further evidence of their capacity for bilateral co-operation.
6. The Heads of State agreed that relations between Argentina and Brazil had become extremely diversified, profound and flexible, thus intensifying the permanent readiness of the two peoples progressively to strengthen their ties of friendship and solidarity.
7. The Presidents agreed on the analysis of the difficulties the economy of the region was experiencing as a result of the complex problems stemming from the external debt, the increasing protectionism in international trade, the persistent deterioration in the terms of trade and the outflow of foreign exchange affecting the economies of the developing countries.
8. They also agreed that there was an urgent need for Latin America to reinforce its negotiating power vis-à-vis the rest of the world, increasing its ability to take autonomous decisions and ensuring that the countries of the region did not remain vulnerable to the effects of policies adopted without their participation.

They therefore resolved to combine and co-ordinate the efforts of their respective Governments to revitalize the policies of co-operation and integration among the Latin American nations.

9. In examining the external debt problem, the two Presidents considered that positions on that subject were evolving in such a way as to confirm the wisdom and appropriateness of the conceptual approach embodied in the Cartagena Consensus in June 1984. They noted that the leaders of the industrialized countries and of the international financial community were becoming increasingly aware of the seriousness of the situation created by Latin America's external debt. They also expressed their great satisfaction at the fact that the key ideas of the Cartagena Consensus - the need for growth in the economies of the debtor countries, the need to reduce the debt servicing burden and the need for joint responsibility on the part of debtors and creditors - were beginning to be understood, and they expressed the desire that they should serve as the basis for new initiatives aimed at solving the problem. The two Presidents expressed their confidence that, on the basis of those fundamental premises, the countries which had signed the Cartagena Consensus would continue exploring all the possibilities opened up by the new prospects for dialogue with a view to finding lasting solutions that would enable their Governments to devote themselves to the essential task of ensuring the well-being and development of their peoples, thus consolidating the democratic process in Latin America.

10. They emphasized their countries' determination to revitalize the inter-American system and expressed their common readiness to contribute whole-heartedly to the invigoration of the Organization of American States and the strengthening of the principles governing relations in the hemisphere.

11. They stressed the special importance of the South Atlantic for the peoples of South America and Africa and expressed their firm opposition to any attempt to transfer East-West tensions to the region, in particular through militarization measures, since the region should remain a zone of peace and co-operation.

12. They reaffirmed the full support of their Governments for the activities of the Contadora Group, which they considered the best means of achieving an appropriate solution to the Central American crisis, taking the interests of all the countries of the region into account in a just and equitable manner. In that connection, since the Governments of Argentina and Brazil, together with those of Peru and Uruguay, were members of the Contadora Support Group, they expressed their satisfaction at the fact that the mechanisms for the systematic exchange of information, consultation and diplomatic action provided for by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Contadora Group and the Support Group at the meeting held at Cartagena in August 1985 were functioning efficiently.

13. In considering co-operation in the River Plate basin, they expressed the political will of the two nations to promote bilateral and multilateral action aimed at achieving the objectives of the Treaty of Brasilia, with renewed vigour and on pragmatic bases.

14. With regard to the question of the Malvinas, President Sarney reiterated Brazil's traditional support for the sovereign rights of Argentina over the archipelago. He stressed the importance of a peaceful solution to the dispute and expressed his confidence that the talks between the parties would be resumed in accordance with the terms of the relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations and the Organization of American States. President Alfonsín expressed his satisfaction with that position and the gratitude of his Government for Brazil's actions in its capacity as the Power protecting Argentine interests vis-à-vis the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

15. They voiced concern at problems arising from the use of and traffic in illicit drugs and agreed to undertake joint efforts at both the bilateral and multilateral levels. They also agreed that a comprehensive approach must be taken to this problem, since it involves moral, political, economic, financial, social, inspection and control aspects which call for a combined effort, and that co-operation must cover the prevention of drug abuse, the reduction of drug trafficking and the rehabilitation of drug users.

16. They emphasized that, within the context of their traditional ongoing bilateral relationship, the recent successes achieved by the two nations in their efforts to strengthen their respective democracies have created particularly favourable conditions for improving their ties in a wide variety of sectors and for tightening their international co-operation.

17. The Presidents recognized the growing need for frequent high-level talks between their two Governments.

18. In this spirit, they stated their firm political will to speed up the process of bilateral integration, in harmony with regional development and co-operation efforts. They voiced their firm conviction that, in pursuing this task, Governments must have the participation of all sectors of their national communities. They called on such sectors to join in that endeavour, for they too had a part to play in exploring new approaches to the search for an economic space for the Latin American region.

19. To that end, they decided to set up a high-level Joint Commission for bilateral co-operation and economic integration, presided over by their Ministers for Foreign Affairs and composed of representatives of the two countries' Governments and business sectors, to consider and propose economic integration programmes, projects and methods.

20. This Commission, which will cover all sectors in which increased integration between the two countries is possible, will be set up in the first quarter of 1986 and shall, before 30 June 1986, report to the two Presidents on the priorities proposed for rapidly strengthening their ties of co-operation and economic integration, particularly in the areas of industrial complementarity, energy, transport and communications, scientific and technological development, bilateral trade and trade with third markets.

21. The composition, date of establishment, mechanisms, procedures and other details relating to the functioning of this Commission will be agreed upon through the diplomatic channel. The Commission's mandate shall neither interfere with nor delay any institutional co-operation which is currently in progress or which may result from other decisions adopted at this meeting.
22. In the energy, transport and communications sectors, the Presidents stated their intention of promoting increasing complementarity between their two countries' systems, as a form of effective integration which would generate mutual technical, economic, financial and commercial benefits for their two countries. They emphasized the need for Argentine and Brazilian industries and the corresponding State corporations to participate in this integration effort.
23. With a view to continuing the process of physical integration and integration of transport and communications systems between their countries, the two Presidents decided to set up, within the high-level Commission, a sub-commission to examine road and rail connections, bridges, ports and waterways, road, sea, river and air transport problems and communications problems. This sub-commission will be co-ordinated by the Under-Secretaries for Transport Planning and the Under-Secretary of the Department of Communications of Argentina, and the General Secretaries of the Ministries of Transport and Communications of Brazil, as appropriate.
24. Similarly, with a view to co-ordinating the execution of joint energy projects, the two Presidents decided to set up another sub-commission presided over by the Under-Secretary for Energy Planning of Argentina and the General Secretary of the Ministry of Mines and Energy of Brazil. This sub-commission will examine, in particular, the feasibility of supplying Argentine natural gas to Brazil and the possibilities for complementarity in the areas of petroleum exploration and exploitation and bilateral trade in liquid and gaseous fuels.
25. In the area of hydroelectric power, the Presidents stated their decision to proceed jointly with the Garabí bi-national hydroelectric project, on the basis of a timetable guaranteeing conclusion of the basic project and the relevant documentation in the next 12 months. In these circumstances and subject to the development and co-ordination of their respective national grids, the project can be expected to enter into service, in accordance with the two countries' construction plans, in the period between 1995 and the year 2000.
26. In this sector, both Presidents welcomed Argentina's firm political decision to execute, in conjunction with Brazil, the Pichi-Picun-Leufu hydroelectric power works. To that end, they welcomed the fact that negotiations on the credit agreement and loan offered by the Brazilian Government, as well as those on establishing the commercial and legal bases for the contract between Hidronor S.A. and the Argentine-Brazilian Consortium, are under way.
27. In view of the desire for greater complementarity between the two countries' electric power grids, both Presidents expressed satisfaction at the progress of the works being carried out under the corresponding agreement, to interconnect the two grids, and expressed interest in following up this effort by encouraging the establishment of new ties.

28. In the sphere of scientific and technological co-operation, both Presidents stated their conviction that science and technology play a fundamental role in economic and social development and emphasized the importance of the basic agreement as an appropriate framework for bilateral co-operation. Such co-operation finds its expression in the supplementary agreements on metrology, afforestation, space activities, agriculture and communications, and that on biotechnology signed in the course of the present meeting, as well as in the co-operation agreement on the peaceful uses of nuclear power. They also emphasized the importance of technical co-operation among institutions, which has led to projects in the areas of virology, vocational training and transport. In this latter connection, they expressed satisfaction at the negotiations under way between their Governments on the conclusion of a memorandum of understanding on co-operation in the spheres of transport research and technology.

29. With a view to stepping up efforts in the area of scientific and technological co-operation, the two Presidents decided to set up a sub-commission within the high-level Commission, to be presided over by the Under-Secretary for the Advancement of Science and Technology of Argentina and the General Secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology of Brazil.

30. They emphasized, in particular, the importance of the agreements formalized by their two Governments in July and August of this year concerning efforts to expand and balance trade between Argentina and Brazil. In order to encourage economic and commercial co-operation and diversify bilateral trade and trade with third markets, the two Presidents decided to set up a sub-commission for economic and commercial affairs, presided over by the Under-Secretary for International Economic Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina and the Under-Secretary for Economic and Commercial Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil.

31. The two Presidents also expressed satisfaction at having signed, that same day, the Joint Declaration on Nuclear Policy, which accords with the peaceful purposes of their countries' nuclear development programmes and conforms to Latin America's best traditions of co-operation and peace.

32. Lastly, Presidents Raúl Ricardo Alfonsín and José Sarney reaffirmed emphatically that the process of democratization now under way in Latin America will result in closer relations and integration among the peoples of the region. They also affirmed that, for Latin Americans, democracy necessarily means peace, freedom and social justice; they undertook to spare no effort to ensure the coexistence on this continent of societies which uphold the principles of human dignity, co-operation, solidarity, peace and well-being. In conclusion, they stated that Argentine-Brazilian bilateral relations will exemplify these principles.
