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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Forty-third session

Items 28, 82 and 83 of the
preliminary list*

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS
AND THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT

SECURITY COUNCIL

Forty-third year

Letter dated 5 April 1988 from the Permanent Representative
of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of decision 271, which the Latin American Council of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) adopted at a special meeting convened as a matter of urgency at the ministerial level on 28 and 29 March 1986 at Caracas, Republic of Venezuela (see annex).

I request you to have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 28, 82 and 83 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jorge Eduardo RITTER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/43/50.

Decision No. 271

THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNCIL,

HAVING SEEN:

Decisions 112 and 113 adopted by the Latin American Council concerning economic measures of a coercive nature;

The relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Charter of the Organization of American States;

The request submitted by the Government of Panama to the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System on 18 March 1988, that, in compliance with Decision 113, as a matter of urgency, a Special Meeting of the Latin American Council be convened at Ministerial level, and in which request that the country outlines the economic enforcement measures that have been employed against it, expressing its sovereign will to resolutely pursue the strengthening of its democratic system.

Decisions 115, 189 and 259 concerning the 1977 Panama Canal Treaties.

WHEREAS:

Self-determination and non-intervention in the internal affairs of countries are fundamental principles of international relations;

The United States of America is imposing economic measures of a coercive nature on Panama which are causing serious harm to the Panamanian people;

These economic enforcement measures are contrary to International Law and are not in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Organization of American States;

Decision 112 of the Latin American Council condemns the imposition of coercive measures and demands the elimination of economic embargos and blockades, the freezing of funds, the suspension of credits and others.

Latin American and Caribbean solidarity is a fundamental condition for strengthening Latin American self-determination and sovereignty.

DECIDES:

Article 1. To reaffirm the sovereign right of all nations to choose their own economic, social and political destiny in peace and liberty, free from external pressure, aggressions and threats.

Article 2. To reiterate the condemnation expressed in Article 3 of Decision 112 of the imposition of coercive

economic measures on any SELA Member State, since they jeopardize its sovereignty and economic security and undermine its right to independent development.

Article 3. To repudiate, therefore, the economic enforcement measures adopted by the Government of the United States of America against Panama affecting the autonomy and threatening the economic security of this Member State, and constituting a grave economic emergency such as foreseen in Article 1 of Decision 113.

Article 4. To call upon the Government of the United States of America to revoke immediately the enforcement measures which it has instituted against Panama.

Article 5. To consider, in a spirit of solidarity, the request for assistance from the Government of Panama, outlined in the document "Economic Co-operation Requirements of the Republic of Panama" (CL/VI.E/DT No. 1, Corr 1) and to entrust the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System with promoting and co-ordinating consultations with Member States as to the necessary actions and measures.

Article 6. To take note of the document CL/VI.E/DT No. 1 placed before the VI Special Meeting of the Latin American Council of SELA by the Government of Panama in which it

reaffirms and places on record the commitment that it has assumed to pursue resolutely the strengthening of its democratic system.

Article 7. To reaffirm the need for strict observances of the 1977 Panama Canal Treaties and to exhort the Government of the United States of America to abide by their provisions.
