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Thirty-sixth session
Item 19 of the preliminary list*

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Letter dated 24 March 1981 from the representatives of Barbados,
Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago to
the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Governments of the member countries of the Standing Committee of Ministers of the Caribbean Community responsible for Foreign Affairs, and with reference to General Assembly resolution 35/20 of 11 November 1980 on the question of Belize, we the undersigned have the honour to forward to you the attached "Declaration of Belmopan" signed by the representatives of Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts-Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago at the conclusion of the meeting of the Standing Committee held at Belmopan, Belize, on 18 March 1981.

This meeting was held following the Anglo-Guatemalan Agreement on Belize signed in London between the two sides on 11 March 1981. On the basis of this Agreement, Belize may now proceed to early independence with full territorial integrity.

We do firmly believe that General Assembly resolution 35/20 had a catalytic effect in bringing about the Agreement in question, which now makes it possible for Belize to proceed to independence.

We would specially like to draw Your Excellency's attention to paragraph 7 of the resolution, in which the General Assembly requests the relevant organs of the United Nations to take such actions as may be appropriate and as may be requested by the administering Power and the Government of Belize in order to facilitate the attainment of independence by Belize and to guarantee its security and territorial integrity thereafter. In this connexion, the Standing Committee mandated Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of States which are members of the Caribbean Community to consult together and with representatives of friendly States in order to identify areas of action which relevant organs of the United Nations might be requested to undertake. Your Excellency will be informed, in due course, of the result of these consultations.

* A/36/50.

It would be appreciated if this communication and the text of this Declaration could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 19 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Ronald G. MAPP
Permanent Representative of Barbados
to the United Nations

(Signed) Jocelyn Margaret SYLVESTER-HENRY
Chargé d'Affaires of Grenada
to the United Nations

(Signed) Noel G. SINCLAIR
Permanent Representative of Guyana
to the United Nations

(Signed) Egerton RICHARDSON
Permanent Representative of Jamaica
to the United Nations

(Signed) Barry B. L. AUGUSTE
Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia
to the United Nations

(Signed) Lenore Sylvia DORSET
Chargé d'Affaires of Trinidad and Tobago
to the United Nations

ANNEX

DECLARATION OF BELMOPAN

We, the Standing Committee of Ministers of the Caribbean Community responsible for Foreign Affairs,

Noting with satisfaction the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 35/20 of 11 November 1980 which states inter alia that Belize should become an independent State before the conclusion of the 36th Session of the General Assembly;

Conscious of the long struggle of the people and Government of Belize for self-determination and independence with full sovereignty and territorial integrity;

Aware that Belize, a Member State of the Caribbean Community, is an integral part of Central America and the Caribbean;

Recognising that Belize is therefore uniquely endowed to play, as a sovereign independent State, a pivotal role in building links and patterns of co-operation between the peoples of the Caribbean and Central America;

Convinced that the Heads of Agreement signed in London on 11 March 1981 provide the basis on which the controversy between the United Kingdom and Guatemala over the territory

of Belize can be amicably and honourably settled:

DECLARE:

- 1. Our support for the Agreement signed on 11 March 1981 by the Governments of the United Kingdom, Guatemala and Belize;*
- 2. Our satisfaction with Guatemala's recognition of the right of Belize to become independent as an integral part of Central America within its existing and traditional frontiers;*
- 3. Our unswerving solidarity with the Government and people of Belize in their quest for an early and secure independence with full territorial integrity in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;*
- 4. That the following principles and objectives should govern the negotiation of the treaty or treaties in pursuance of the Heads of Agreement -*
 - a) the independence of Belize must be achieved before the end of 1981 irrespective of the progress of these negotiations,*
 - b) the territorial integrity of Belize must be*

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fully respected and preserved,

c) any privileges granted by Belize in a spirit of goodwill and conciliation must not derogate from its sovereignty or be of such a nature as to undermine the promotion of peaceful co-existence and the development of stable and harmonious relations among the States of the Region;

5. That it is the responsibility of the Government of the United Kingdom to continue to ensure the security and territorial integrity of Belize and, in concert with the Government of Belize, pursue appropriate arrangements to guarantee the security of an independent Belize;

6. Our readiness to render all appropriate technical and other assistance to the Government of Belize in the conduct of these negotiations;

7. That a secure and independent Belize is essential to the development of full and harmonious relations between the countries of the Caribbean and Central America; and

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8. *Our determination to keep the entire situation under constant review and to take appropriate action in the light of future developments.*

BELMOPAN
18 MARCH 1981
