



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/37/244
15 October 1982
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Thirty-seventh session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE
AGENDA OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION

OBSERVANCE OF THE QUINCENTENARY OF THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA

Letter dated 12 October 1982 from the representatives of Argentina, the Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States, Uruguay and Venezuela addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with the provisions of rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the representatives of the countries signing this letter request that the agenda of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly should include an additional item entitled "Observance of the Quincentenary of the discovery of America".

The historical event of the arrival in America of the three caravels, flying Spanish flags and commanded by Admiral Christopher Columbus, was a decisive step towards a clear conception of our planet and opened up opportunities for contact and understanding between the various civilizations and peoples of the earth, culminating in the ideals of universality reaffirmed in the era of the United Nations.

The quincentenary of the discovery of the New World, which occurred on 12 October 1492, must therefore be appropriately observed by the world Organization and, to that end, the decade beginning at this time should be a period for the organization of activities equal to such a great commemorative occasion. They should be based on the purposes and principles of friendly relations and international co-operation enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

For those reasons we request the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly of the item entitled "Observance of the quincentenary of the discovery of America".

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