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DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF THE GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

Letter dated 11 January 1983 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text of the information bulletin issued at the end of the meeting held on 8 and 9 January 1983 at Isla Contadora, Republic of Panama, by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela.

On the instructions of my Government, I request you to have this bulletin circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the items entitled "Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States", "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security" and "Development and international economic co-operation".

(Signed) Leonardo KAM
Ambassador

Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Panama
to the United Nations

ANNEX
INFORMATION BULLETIN

In response to the invitation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama, Mr. Juan José Amada III, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Colombia: Mr. Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo, Mexico: Mr. Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, and Venezuela: Mr. José Alberto Zambrano Velasco, met on 8 and 9 January 1983 at Isla Contadora, Republic of Panama.

The Foreign Ministers met the President of the Republic of Panama, Mr. Ricardo De La Espriella T., and the Vice-President of the Republic, Mr. Jorge Illueca.

At this cordial meeting, the keen sentiments of fraternity, solidarity and mutual understanding which have traditionally linked the Governments and peoples of Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela were reaffirmed.

The Foreign Ministers considered various topics of regional interest and agreed on the need to intensify the dialogue at the Latin American level as an effective means of confronting the political, economic and social problems which are jeopardizing the peace, democracy, stability and development of the peoples of the continent.

They considered the complex situation prevailing in Central America and the political processes taking place in the area, their interrelationship and their consequences for stability and peace in the region. In expressing their deep concern about direct or indirect foreign interference in the conflicts of Central America and noting that it is most undesirable that those conflicts should be included in the context of east-west confrontation, they agreed on the need to eliminate the external factors intensifying those conflicts.

They made an urgent appeal to all the countries of the Central American area to engage in dialogue and negotiation so as to reduce tension and lay the foundations for a permanent atmosphere of peaceful co-existence and mutual respect among States.

In reaffirming the obligation of States not to resort to the threat or use of force in their international relations, they called upon all States to refrain from actions which might aggravate the situation and pose the danger of a broader conflict extending throughout the region.

They reviewed the various peace initiatives and their effects. In that connection, while respecting the principles of non-intervention and self-determination of the peoples, the Foreign Ministers analysed possible new actions and drew attention to the desirability of associating with those efforts the valuable contribution and necessary support of other countries of the Latin American community.

They reiterated their decision to continue to promote the economic strengthening of the Central American and Caribbean countries through initiatives such as the energy co-operation programme sponsored by Mexico and Venezuela and the financial co-operation plan put forward by Colombia. They felt that those initiatives and other measures of economic co-operation would contribute to achieving the goals of political stability and social peace.

In relation to the meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Managua, Nicaragua, from 10 to 14 January 1983, the Foreign Ministers stressed the importance of the Non-Aligned Movement for developing nations.

They expressed their hopes for the success of that meeting and their belief that its final conclusions were bound to contribute to the search for balanced and constructive solutions.

They agreed on the importance of broadening the participation of the Latin American nations in the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries either as members or as observers so as to ensure better systems of consultation, dialogue and negotiation and strengthening the foundations of non-alignment and political pluralism.

In considering international economic questions, the Foreign Ministers noted with concern the tendency to recession in the world economy. They noted the adverse effects produced by that phenomenon in Latin America in terms of flows of financing, trade, investment and employment and stressed the need to re-order an international economic system which, because of its distortions, produced serious imbalances for developing countries.

The Foreign Ministers considered the decline in world trade, the prevalence of protectionism in industrialized countries, and the conditions imposed on external credit and its inadequacy. They noted that, in order to promote development financing, foreign currency resources from foreign trade and other complementary financial sources were needed in addition to domestic savings. Those resources, which were essential for the Latin American economies, would, to the extent that they became available, make it possible to consolidate productive investment and ensure the creation of employment.

The Foreign Ministers stressed the importance of periodic consultations at the ministerial level to consider economic matters of interest to Latin America. In view of the obvious benefits produced by co-ordination in the context of the Latin American Economic System (SELA), the Foreign Ministers noted the relevance of the Ministerial Meeting of Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in February at Cartagena, and the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77, to be held at Buenos Aires in March 1983.

In that connection, they reaffirmed their desire to contribute effectively to ensure that those meetings fully served the purpose of co-ordinating and establishing the joint negotiating position of the developing countries for UNCTAD VI at Belgrade. That forum should provide an impetus to the series of global negotiations which, within the framework of the United Nations, should regulate international co-operation for development.

The Foreign Ministers agreed on the importance of the strict implementation of the Panama Canal treaties and noted with satisfaction the jurisdictional advances made in implementing those treaties. At the same time, they expressed concern about the adverse effects resulting from the use of discriminatory legal instruments in other matters which arose in the process of implementing the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

On the occasion of the bicentenary of the birth of the Liberator Simón Bolívar, the Foreign Ministers noted the significance of that date and the opportunity it provided for strengthening friendship and promoting co-operation among all the Latin American peoples.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela thanked the President of the Republic of Panama, Mr. Ricardo De La Espriella, and the Panamanian Government for their hospitality on the occasion of the meeting which they described as extremely useful. They also expressed gratitude to the people and authorities of Panama for the attentiveness shown them during their stay in Panama.

Isla Contadora, Panama, 9 January 1983
