



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/294
31 May 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session
Items 23, 28, 33, 34, 35, 41, 43, 82
and 111 of the preliminary list*

QUESTION OF PALESTINE

THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE
AND SECURITY AND PEACE INITIATIVES

LAW OF THE SEA

POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

LAUNCHING OF GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

QUESTION OF NAMIBIA

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO COMBAT DRUG ABUSE AND
ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

Letter dated 25 May 1990 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit the attached copy of the communiqué of the sixteenth meeting of the Standing Committee of Ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs of the Caribbean Community, held at Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, on 7 and 8 May 1990, with the request that it be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 23, 28, 33, 34, 35, 41, 43, 82 and 111 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) James A. POMPEY
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/45/50.

ANNEX

Communiqué of the sixteenth meeting of the Standing Committee
of Ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs of the Caribbean
Community

1. The Standing Committee of Ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs (SCMFA) of the Caribbean Community held its sixteenth meeting at Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, on 7 and 8 May 1990. This was preceded by a preparatory meeting of officials on 3 and 4 May 1990. The meeting was attended by 10 of the 12 States comprising the membership of the Standing Committee. The Heads of Delegation were: Mr. Eric Challenger, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Antigua and Barbuda; Hon. E. Charles Carter, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Bahamas; Senator the Hon. Harcourt Lewis, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Barbados; Mr. Robert Leslie, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belize; Cde. Rashleigh E. Jackson, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Guyana; Senator the Hon. David H. Coore, Q.C., Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica; Dr. Saint Asyll Warner, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Saint Kitts and Nevis; Hon. E. Neville Cenac, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Saint Lucia; the Rt. Hon. James Mitchell, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Foreign Affairs, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; and Senator the Hon. Dr. Sahadeo Basdeo, Minister of External Affairs and Internal Trade, Tobago. Hon. Jonathan Peters, Minister of State (Trade and Tourism), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, assisted the Prime Minister in the leadership of the delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

2. Mr. Roderick Rainford, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, chaired the opening ceremony.

3. The Meeting was addressed by the Hon. E. Neville Cenac, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Saint Lucia, as outgoing Chairman of the Standing Committee. The Rt. Hon. James Mitchell, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Foreign Affairs, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, delivered the inaugural address.

4. The Prime Minister, in welcoming delegates to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, recalled the period in which Caribbean nationals held leading positions in the Commonwealth, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the ACP and said that CARICOM's problems begin when "we do not establish to the rest of the world that we have an agenda and that a solid block of votes addresses that agenda".

5. The Prime Minister added "By having several different agendas ... we squander the sovereignty of which we boast, and the image of the Caribbean that stood so tall in the Halls of the Commonwealth, UNCTAD or the ACP recedes."

6. Cde. R. Jackson, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Guyana, replied on behalf of visiting delegations.

7. The Rt. Hon. James Mitchell was elected Chairman of the meeting and new Chairman in-office of the Standing Committee.

THE CHANGING INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

8. The Ministers considered the changing relationship between the super-Powers, which had led to reduction in tension in some parts of the world and created the possibilities for a trend towards dialogue and conciliation in the conduct of relations among States. The Ministers expressed the hope that the super-Powers take full advantage of these possibilities to bring closer to realization the promise of universal nuclear disarmament.

9. The Ministers also noted that there were certain issues that transcend national and regional concern such as drug trafficking and the degradation of the environment. It was emphasized that regional strategies had to be devised in order to bring about a more co-ordinated approach to address these problems which threaten the security and development prospects, especially those of small States.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES

10. The Ministers examined the recent international economic situation and the prospects for the future. They noted that the pace of global economic activity slackened in 1989 was expected to grow at a moderate pace in the near future.

11. They examined a number of factors that are likely to influence the future performance of the global economy. These factors included the future globalization of trade, finance and production structures; the trend towards regionalism; the continued evolution towards a multi-polar world economy with Europe, Japan and eastern Asia playing a more dynamic role; and the economic impact of the political changes in Eastern Europe, Central America and southern Africa.

12. The Ministers pointed out that these developments posed challenges to the developing countries and to Caribbean countries in particular. They observed that the prospects for Caribbean countries are mixed and that much would depend on the region's ability to capitalize on some of the more favourable trends in the international economic environment.

13. They welcomed the assurances given by Canada, the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Community at the recent meeting of the Caribbean Group for Co-operation and Economic Development (CGCED) that future assistance to these newly emerging democracies would not be at the expense of the English-speaking States of the Caribbean region.

14. They urged that the resources of the multilateral finance institutions be increased appropriately to meet the requirements of the new democracies as well as the unfulfilled need of the developing countries of the South for additional ODA flows.

15. The Ministers welcomed the recent initiatives to address the debt problems of the highly indebted countries and the low-income countries, but were concerned that approaches had not yet been developed to address the problem of middle-income indebted countries such as those in the English-speaking Caribbean.

16. They agreed that the multilateral financial institutions had an important role to play in debt relief and to this end called for the necessary changes in their operational rules.

17. The Ministers considered the recent developments in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and the increasing role of the service sector in these negotiations and recognized the need for adequate preparations for these important negotiations.

18. The Ministers noted that since they last met, the Lomé IV Convention had been signed between the ACP and the EEC. They noted the new elements contained in the Convention including its longer duration and urged the region to make all efforts to take full advantage of the provisions of the new Convention.

JOINT REPRESENTATION

19. The Ministers noted the diminution of CARICOM representation on the governing bodies of a number of international organizations. They agreed that urgent steps should be taken to redress this situation. In this context they discussed the need to advance agreed CARICOM candidatures in those organizations and that a list of international organizations of primary importance to CARICOM in which such representation could be undertaken should be identified.

20. The Ministers also welcomed the offer of a number of CARICOM Governments to share the facilities of their overseas offices with other member States and examined the proposal to establish joint offices in a number of overseas locations to further the interests of the region.

RELATIONS WITH CANADA

21. The Ministers, in reviewing the subject, took note of the meeting which was held in Barbados on 19 and 20 March 1990 between the Prime Minister of Canada and heads of Government of the Commonwealth Caribbean. They agreed that the meeting was successful in bringing to the attention of Canada many of the problems of Commonwealth Caribbean countries.

22. They expressed appreciation for Canada's debt forgiveness to the Caribbean States announced by Prime Minister Mulroney as well as his undertaking to try to persuade leaders of other developed countries to make similar commitments to countries of the developing world. They also noted his pledge to ensure that aid provided to the newly emerging democracies of Eastern Europe would not be at the expense of aid commitments to the developing South.

23. They agreed that steps should be taken to follow up on the momentum generated by the Barbados meeting. In particular, they urged that early preparations be made for the Montreal and Toronto conferences on investment, which are due to take place in 1991.

/...
/...

24. They recognized that meetings of the Joint Trade and Economic Committee (JTEC) provided a mechanism for the further strengthening of Canada/CARICOM relations.

CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVE (CBI)

25. The Ministers recalled their statement issued following their meeting in May 1989 urging the United States Congress to improve upon the provisions of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act. They noted that the legislation is expected to be considered in the conference between the House of Representatives and the Senate and that the outcome is not likely to address adequately the interests of the CBI countries, with most of the significant provisions to improve the bill removed.

26. The Ministers welcomed the provision which makes CBI permanent but expressed their disappointment with the emasculation of the bill.

27. Although Ministers regretted that all of the region's objectives were not met by the bill as it currently stands, they nevertheless welcomed the provision which makes CBI permanent.

CENTRAL AMERICA

28. The Ministers noted that recent developments in Central America had at once confirmed the value of the use of diplomacy and negotiations and also the extent to which the subregion is exposed to resort to the use of force and external intervention in the solution of both domestic and inter-State problems. The Ministers expressed the hope that the climate conducive to conciliation and the peaceful resolution of conflict would be maintained and become a permanent feature of the political landscape. They also observed that the movement towards democracy now evident in that region presented an opportunity for CARICOM to examine the possibilities of closer relations with those countries.

BELIZE/GUATEMALA

29. The Ministers considered Belize/Guatemala relations and welcomed the recent initiatives taken at the highest levels by the two States to arrive at a political understanding to advance the negotiating process. In this context they applauded the bipartisan stance adopted by Belize in the negotiations.

30. They further noted the possibility that upcoming elections in Guatemala may delay the conclusion of the negotiations, and expressed the hope that the momentum would be maintained and lead to the early preparation of a draft treaty to resolve the long-standing problem between the two countries.

GUYANA/VENEZUELA RELATIONS

31. The Ministers considered the question of Guyana/Venezuela relations and noted that contacts at different levels between the two States had continued to reflect the expanded areas of functional co-operation, especially in the areas of energy and air transportation, and concluded that these developments augured well for the relations between the two States.

32. On the matter of the controversy the Ministers noted that Mr. Alister Mc Intyre had been appointed the personal representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to perform the functions of "good offices" and that Mr. Mc Intyre had visited the capitals of Guyana and Venezuela and held discussions with the Foreign Ministers of the respective States.

33. The Ministers registered their satisfaction with the ongoing process of dialogue and co-operation between Guyana and Venezuela.

HAITI

34. The Ministers in reviewing recent developments in Haiti expressed the hope that the most recent transition from military to civilian control of the Government would create an environment conducive to the establishment of democracy and the promotion of economic development.

35. The Ministers received the report of the CARICOM Electoral Officials Working Group, which visited Haiti in April 1990 in fulfilment of the recommendations of the first CARICOM ministerial mission in August 1989. Ministers reasserted the solidarity of the Caribbean Community with the Haitian people and confirmed the return visit of the Foreign Ministers' mission at the end of May 1990.

36. The Ministers also agreed that CARICOM would continue its efforts to respond to the Haitian Government's request for electoral assistance preferably within the framework of the United Nations-co-ordinated effort and also agreed to seek international assistance to Haiti. They agreed that a proposal should be presented to the forthcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly for the convening of an international conference for the reconstruction of Haiti.

RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA

37. The Ministers reviewed the evolution of developments in the context of CARICOM/Latin America relations with particular reference to the meeting held in Tobago between President Perez of Venezuela and five CARICOM heads of Government, as well as the follow-up meeting of officials held in Caracas in January 1990. They agreed that the second meeting of officials should be held in a Caribbean country during the third quarter of 1990.

38. The Ministers noted the growing co-operation between Mexico and CARICOM as evidence by the proposed signing of the Agreement on Professional Upgrading between

Mexico and CARICOM and the ongoing discussions in the field of trade and transportation.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

39. The Ministers welcomed the accession of Canada to full membership of the Organization of American States and the according of permanent observer status to Belize and Guyana after December 1990. They looked forward to the attainment of full membership by Belize and Guyana after December 1990 when the relevant provision of the Cartagena Protocol comes into effect. These developments would reinforce the regional character of the organization.

40. The Ministers reiterated their grave concern at the persistence of the financial crisis in the organization and expressed the view that in examining the ways of strengthening the organization, the Permanent Council should review the existing formula of quota payments so as to bring about a resolution of the crisis. They renewed their call on all member States in arrears to make good their contributions to the regular and voluntary funds.

41. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the role that the OAS has played in the search for a peaceful solution to the problems of the region and in Central America, and proposes to play in Haiti.

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE (CDCC)

42. The Ministers noted the growing co-operation between the CDCC and CARICOM secretariats and between CARICOM and non-CARICOM members of the CDCC. In particular they noted ongoing co-operation in information science, population development and planning policies, and the arrangements for the regional economic conference, scheduled to be held in Trinidad and Tobago in November 1990.

43. They also noted the ongoing co-operation between the CARICOM secretariat and the secretariats of other organizations in the Latin American and Caribbean region, including the secretariat of the Latin American Economic System.

44. Concerning the functioning and effectiveness of the CDCC, the Ministers expressed continued support for the work of the Monitoring Committee and emphasized the need for active CARICOM participation in the programmes and activities of CDCC.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

45. The Ministers reviewed developments in southern Africa and noted that the independence of Namibia and a number of positive internal developments in South Africa, including the release of Nelson Mandela, had strengthened the position of the majority of the people of southern Africa in their struggle to end apartheid and to establish democratic rule. They further noted that these developments had also enhanced the prospect of a negotiated settlement. The Ministers agreed that

sanctions against the apartheid régime should be maintained. They affirmed their support for the people of South Africa in the pursuit of their aspirations.

THE ARAB/ISRAEL CONFLICT

46. The Ministers noted that the situation in the Middle East had not improved and again felt compelled to register their disappointment that the peace process has not advanced. This situation, which has implications for world peace, again underscores the need for an International Peace Conference on the Middle East in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions on the conflict.

47. The Ministers agreed that any such solution must be based on certain established principles: the right of the Palestinian people to a homeland, the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied lands, and the right to all States in the region, including Israel, to live in peace and security within recognized and secure borders in accordance with Security Council resolution 242 (1967).

ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

48. The Foreign Ministers took note of the fact that efforts over the years to promote special international measures to support the development of island developing countries were still facing opposition, especially among some of the developed countries.

49. They agreed that the case of island developing countries continues to remain strong and valid and that there was need to ensure that the special problems of those countries are addressed by the international community and that the opportunity provided by the United Nations-sponsored conference in New York be used to generate global support for them. They noted the report of the preparatory meeting held in Saint Lucia, from 28 to 30 March to formulate a CARICOM position for the United Nations global conference on the island developing countries to take place in New York in the latter part of June.

50. The Ministers agreed that there was need for CARICOM to participate actively in the conference and to this end there was need for continuing the preparatory work to ensure the adoption of an approach strategy.

DRUG ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING

51. The Ministers reviewed developments in the international anti-drug campaign over the past year and expressed the Community's recognition of the need for continued and increased international co-operation and collaboration at all levels in addressing the problems of drug production, trafficking and abuse. In this regard Ministers took special note of the significance of the most recent international and hemispheric meetings, notably, the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, the Ministerial Summit on Demand reduction in London and the Inter-American Ministerial Meeting held in Ixtapa, Mexico.

52. The Ministers noted that the active efforts of CARICOM Governments in the international anti-drug campaign were formally recognized by the inclusion in the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of a provision to address the special problem of transit States. This Convention has been ratified by one member State and signed by three.

53. The Ministers welcomed the invitation to two member States of the Community to serve on expert groups established by the United Nations. They noted that the purpose of these groups is to address the questions of the protection of the international banking system and other financial institutions from abuse by the traffic in drugs as well as to examine the modalities for implementation of the Global Programme of Action against drug abuse.

THE ENVIRONMENT

54. The Ministers pledged that their Governments would continue to support the effort aimed at establishing an appropriate balance between the responsibility of all nations to protect and preserve the global environment and the right of developing countries to exploit their natural resources in the furtherance of their national development efforts. They also rejected the tendency by multilateral and bilateral aid donors to make the protection of the environment an additional condition for aid disbursement.

55. They agreed that the Governments should participate fully in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brasilia in 1992, and the Second World Climate Conference, to be held in Geneva in 1990, as well as in preparatory meetings.

56. They were pleased to receive a report on steps being taken to give effect to the commitment of the Government of Guyana to make available a part of its tropical forests in the conduct of the major research exercise under the auspices of the Commonwealth. They called upon those CARICOM States which had not yet become parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean and the Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean to do so. Note was taken of the newly adopted Protocol for Specially Protected Areas and Wild Life which is now open for signatories.

57. The Ministers reviewed the efforts and progress being made at the CARICOM level in the area of the environment, including the further institutionalization of the Caribbean Environment Health Institute, based in Saint Lucia, and the work being undertaken by the Consultative Forum on the Management and Conservation of the Caribbean Environment, established by the first CARICOM Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Trinidad and Tobago in 1989. They also noted that the Second CARICOM Ministerial Conference would be taking place in Jamaica in September and that the Preparatory Meeting of Caribbean and Latin American Environment Ministers would take place in Trinidad and Tobago in October 1990.

EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONES (EEZs) OF CARICOM COUNTRIES

58. The Ministers recalled the decision of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community reached at its eighth meeting concerning the development of a programme of co-operation among member States in respect of access to their fisheries zones and management of their EEZs. They endorsed current initiatives to establish a régime for a management of the EEZs and to facilitate regional co-operation for equitable and efficient utilization of living resources of the sea, the conservation of these resources, and the protection and preservation of the marine environment.

DATE AND VENUE

59. The Ministers recalled their acceptance at their fifteenth regular meeting of the offer of the Government of Barbados to host their seventeenth meeting in Bridgetown in May 1991.

60. The Ministers reconfirmed their acceptance of the offer of the Government of the Bahamas to host the eighteenth regular meeting of the Standing Committee in 1992.
