

ORGANIZACIÓN DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS
ASAMBLEA GENERAL

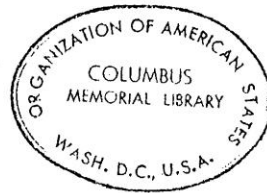


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Volumen II
Parte I

VIGÉSIMO SEGUNDO PERÍODO ORDINARIO DE SESIONES
NASSAU, LAS BAHAMAS
Del 18 al 23 de mayo de 1992

ACTAS Y DOCUMENTOS

VOLUMEN II
PRIMERA PARTE
ACTAS TEXTUALES DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS
Y DE LA COMISIÓN GENERAL



SECRETARÍA GENERAL
ORGANIZACIÓN DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
1993

AG

ACTA DE LA SESION INAUGURAL^{1/}

Fecha: 18 de mayo de 1992

Hora: 9:15 a.m.

Lugar: Paradise Island Resort and Casino

Presidente Provisional:

Señor Clement Maynard
Viceprimer Ministro y Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores
de Las Bahamas

Presentes: Señores

Lawrence S. Eagleburger	(Estados Unidos)
Ernesto Leal Sánchez	(Nicaragua)
Cedric H. Grant	(Guyana)
Ronald MacLean Abaroa	(Bolivia)
Julio E. Linares	(Panamá)
Corinne Baptiste	(Trinidad y Tobago)
Celso Lafer	(Brasil)
Said W. Musa	(Belice)
Juan Aristides Taveras Guzmán	(República Dominicana)
Brian G. K. Alleyne	(Dominica)
Maizie Barker-Welch	(Barbados)
José Manuel Pacas Castro	(El Salvador)
Denneth Modeste	(Grenada)
Barbara McDougall	(Canadá)
Willem A. Udenhout	(Suriname)
Humberto Calderón Berti	(Venezuela)
Charles E. Carter	(Bahamas)
Jean-Robert Sabalat	(Haití)
Patrick A. Lewis	(Antigua y Barbuda)
Joseph E. Edmunds	(Santa Lucía)
Miguel Antonio Vasco	(Ecuador)
William V. Herbert	(St. Kitts y Nevis)
Juan Enrique Fisher	(Uruguay)
Fernando Solana	(México)
Benjamin Clare	(Jamaica)
Noemí Senín de Rubio	(Colombia)
Gonzalo Menéndez Park	(Guatemala)
Oscar de la Puente Raygada	(Perú)
Guido Di Tella	(Argentina)
Cecily Norris	(San Vicente y las Granadinas)
Enrique Silva Cimma	(Chile)
Alexis Frutos Vaesken	(Paraguay)
Mario Carias Zapata	(Honduras)
Bernard H. Niehaus	(Costa Rica)
João Clemente Baena Soares	(Secretario General de la OEA)
Christopher R. Thomas	(Secretario General Adjunto)

1. Publicada anteriormente con la clasificación AG/ACTA 288/92.

Asuntos

1. Discurso del Secretario General de la Organización
2. Discurso del Primer Ministro y Ministro de Turismo de Las Bahamas.

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El PRESIDENTE PROVISIONAL: I have the high honor to call to order this twenty-second regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States. Article 11 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly has bestowed on me the privilege of presiding as Provisional President until the General Assembly elects its President.

The Right Honorable Sir Lynden Pindling, Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism, will honor us with his presence.

[Acompañado de la Comisión de Recepción, ingresa el Primer Ministro y Ministro de Turismo de Las Bahamas, Right Honorable Sir Lynden Pindling.]

1. Discurso del Secretario General de la Organización

El PRESIDENTE PROVISIONAL: Ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to invite to the podium the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, His Excellency Ambassador João Clemente Baena Soares.

El SECRETARIO GENERAL DE LA ORGANIZACION: Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegation, ladies and gentlemen: Let me express, Mr. Prime Minister, our deep appreciation for your generous hospitality, and our sincere recognition for the interest and diligence you and your Government have shown in preparing this meeting. I also express our feelings of gratitude to the people of this beautiful and friendly country for their warm welcome.

Our General Assembly convenes in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, as we commemorate the Quincentennial of the Encounter of Two Worlds. This should be an occasion to build, on the roots and the vision we share, for days to come.

No other international organization, regional or global, is as deeply dedicated to the pursuit of freedom and democracy as the OAS.

The Organization of American States is firmly dedicated to representative democracy by its Charter, by such ensuing decisions as The Santiago Commitment, and General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 1080 (XXII-O/91), properly titled "Representative Democracy."

Remarkable events have taken place since the last session of the General Assembly. On five different occasions, the Ministers of Foreign

Affairs of the Americas convened to defend democracy. This is a unique action.

One year ago we met in Santiago, Chile in the Assembly of Democracy. As we meet today in Nassau, democracy is again the central theme of our concerns. We gather here to reaffirm the values of freedom and justice.

In this pursuit, it is necessary to persist in the efforts to restore democratic rule where it has been broken. In less than a year, the foreign ministers of the member states have faced the demanding task of reverting by peaceful means recent aggressions against the democratic process. This singular endeavor calls for determination, firmness, and perseverance.

It is not enough to react to *de facto* situations brought about by coups d'état which erode the institutional structures of the State. It is equally important to create conditions and to provide incentives that may contribute to prevent any future disruption of democratic life.

We have to acknowledge that much has been accomplished. The record stands to prove the renewed resolve that the OAS has displayed in response to any breach of democratic rule. Still, much remains to be done.

Those who imperil democracy act with boldness and audacity. We must meet their defiant attitude with equally bold and audacious resolve.

It is our mission to provide broader and stronger bases for democratic institutions. Democracy must give a positive response to the needs of the people. Skewed distribution of opportunities and wealth, which is becoming progressively more uneven, erode the stability of the democratic process.

We all know that democracy and development are indivisible, and that it is necessary to strengthen both of them simultaneously. To consolidate democracy, overcoming increasing poverty is a must.

To different degrees, all member states are afflicted with domestic inequality and poverty. The poor are excluded from effective participation in society. That undemocratic exclusion is a powerful source of antidemocratic pressures. The constructive forces that brought about democratic renewal in our hemisphere should now rally to defeat poverty.

Some segments in our societies take advantage of the frustrations of poverty to engage in acts of violence and terrorism. The fabric of democracy must be preserved against those who pretend to impose force over reason. The environment where those vicious aggressions prosper has to be changed. Social conditions ought to be improved, for social justice to prevail.

The Hemisphere confronts compelling challenges. Much is asked from the developing nations of the Americas. More, indeed, than has ever been demanded from any region in history. Consolidation of democracy is taking place while pervasive structural economic reforms are implemented.

Resources are claimed to serve a burdensome external debt; to respond to a pressing social debt; to stimulate growth and investment. These tasks call for persistence, endurance, and tenacity.

Each nation is solely responsible for providing political, social, and economic answers to the challenges it faces. However, international cooperation is instrumental to attain success in surmounting those challenges. Sharing the benefits of progress is the way to build a better hemisphere for all.

The OAS, the Organization created to achieve an order of peace and justice in the Americas, has a unique contribution to make in this respect. It must be used in understanding and cooperation, so its vast potential can be tapped.

Let us keep writing, in freedom and justice, the history of this our land of clashing and merging cultures.

Let us move along together, in a spirit of democratic solidarity, to fulfill the destiny of a hemisphere where all people share the fruits of the soil and the gifts of the mind. It is our task, both demanding and rewarding. Let us be equal to its challenge and its promise. Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister.

2. Discurso del Primer Ministro y Ministro de Turismo de Las Bahamas

EL PRESIDENTE PROVISIONAL: Ladies and gentlemen, I now present to you the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, the Right Honorable Sir Lynden Pindling.

EL PRIMER MINISTRO DE LAS BAHAMAS: Mr. President, Mr. Secretary General, Honorable Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Delegates to the twenty-second regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, Observer Delegations, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, ladies and gentlemen: It is my honor and pleasure to wish you a good morning and to welcome you to The Bahamas. May I express the special appreciation of my Government and of the Bahamian people for the great honor conferred on us in your bringing this prestigious institution to The Bahamas.

I am especially pleased to have been afforded the opportunity to address you this morning prior to the beginning of your deliberations on an exhaustive but very important agenda.

It is, I believe, most appropriate that the premier organization in the Hemisphere of the Americas, should meet here during the year of the Five-hundredth Anniversary of the first arrival in the New World of Christopher Columbus at the Island of San Salvador in The Bahamas. Columbus' arrival marked the first recorded encounter on the shores of the

Americas of three world cultures. His voyage was a testament not only to the intensity of the zeal for overseas adventure during the "Age of Discovery," but also proof of what could be accomplished by sheer determination. The intellectual benefits from that successful voyage of exploration are still very real.

Yet, we know that the first voyage of Christopher Columbus, and successive ones, also marked the tragic extremities which men pursue to extract fame and fortune, all too often at the expense of the value and dignity of their fellow man. Those early Europeans who came to the Americas, initially in small numbers, but soon after in waves, and under all the flags of Christendom, wittingly or unwittingly, used questionable methods to achieve noble objectives. Consequently, civilizations were set back, peoples' rights were violated, and some positive, national achievements were denied. Simultaneously, new nations struggled fiercely to be born and eventually new peoples slowly emerged against catastrophic odds. As the representatives of the peoples who are many generations removed, it is, I believe, our responsibility to get it right the second time around, as we herald the dawn of the next five hundred years. So it seems to me that there is no better forum than The Bahamas to commence the chart of a safe, prosperous, and sustainable future for our culturally rich and diverse peoples.

And what a challenge we have! Two years ago we thought we knew the shape and direction of world order through the decade of the nineties. Today, very little is clear. In fact, the implications of international events--the collapse of the Soviet Union, the reality of the European Community, economic and political activities in South East Asia, the disappearance of the Berlin Wall, the dismemberment of Eastern bloc countries, and the spawning of a North American Market--compel us to seize this timely opportunity, given the serenity of this environment and the peace-loving temperament of the Bahamian people, to make a promising, new beginning.

Already an instructive lesson from developments in Eastern Europe is that states must evolve freely and without coercion to meet the needs, the hopes, and the aspirations of their peoples. In Western Europe, where nations seek to redefine themselves as a new economic bloc, and in the wider global community where other nations are proceeding on a rapid march toward the formalization of trading partnerships, we see evidence of the quality of integration which can be achieved to the greater good of governments and peoples, when it is done voluntarily.

But transformation has not been limited to the Northern Hemisphere and South East Asia. In South Africa we sense the historic end to legislated racism in the policy of apartheid accompanied by the first bold, if late, steps toward the realization of true representative democracy. My Government, and those governments whom you represent, have been intimately involved in the international campaign against apartheid and we can be

justly proud of the beginnings of our success at effecting positive change in this arena.

We have also witnessed interruptions in the expected course of events in the move toward the full realization of democracy for the Haitian people. Lamentably, however, success in this area is not yet complete, and while the region's commitment to democracy, reaffirmed in Santiago less than one year ago, is still firm, we have experienced serious threats to the democratic process in two other member states over the past eight months. Courageously, the threat was put down in Venezuela but we must continue to be seen to support the democratic forces in that member state. As recently as yesterday, you addressed additional ways to assist a return to and a strengthening of the democratic process not only in Haiti, but also in Peru. We must be resolute in these initiatives if we are to effectively serve the cause of representative, democratic government in our hemisphere.

Progress towards effective, local democracy is difficult to institutionalize. We in The Bahamas are particularly proud to have developed and maintained a continuous, territorial habit of democratic traditions since 1729. This has neither been an easy discipline nor has it always embraced even distribution over all ethnic groups in our society. Nevertheless, despite all the retarding pressures, Bahamian democracy has survived colonial discrimination against the landless, triumphed over legislative resistance to female enfranchisement, and overpowered even greater resistance to racial-majority rule. We know, from bitter experience, the inherent difficulties of establishing true democracy where it was not welcomed. The entrenched difficulties were simply unequal to the determination of the majority of Bahamians.

I think that the historian Brian Loveman, writing on democracy in our region, assists our way ahead by appropriately defining our challenge with regard to the democratic process. He says it is "to achieve national objectives which do not violate the rights of people, to make lands of liberty while maintaining political order, to achieve economic progress without exploitation of the working classes, to maintain social order and to create social justice without imposing the terrible 'weight of the night'" on the people whom we seek to serve. That quotation must, I humbly suggest, circumscribe our agenda and underscore the great importance of the efforts of this organization to strengthen the inter-American system for the protection and defense of human rights and the creation of further opportunities for improved human welfare.

With reference to the latter, part and parcel of good governance must be our commitment to secure sound, economic development for our countries, increasing standards of living, better education and social services, and the attendant alleviation of the persistent poverty which continues to envelope significant catchment areas of our peoples. Today, we are increasingly aware that this development must be both responsible and continuing.

The Bahamas, in its small way, has long been in the forefront of efforts to protect and conserve its natural resources. In 1959, fourteen years prior to achieving political independence, The Bahamas National Trust Act established a national preserve in Inagua for the flamingo, our national bird, and set aside in Exuma the first marine nursery park in the world. During The Bahamas' maiden speech at the United Nations in 1973, I had the great honor to record our support for all initiatives to "provide adequate conservation methods and improve techniques of production," particularly with regard to food. You may now effortlessly conclude that The Bahamas knew some time ago that there was no need to sacrifice her clean environment to achieve economic development. The preparatory process for participation in the UN Conference on the Environment and Development has served to highlight the urgency that environmentally supportive technologies and methods become the linchpin of all future development strategies if we are to save the planet for generations to come. The Bahamas is committed to playing a responsible role in the realization of the objectives of the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro and urges all governments, but most especially governments of the developed countries of the world, to lend their full support, both technical and financial, to this effort.

With much satisfaction, I have been thoroughly impressed by the efforts of the Organization of American States to better equip our region to confront the challenges presented by the illicit production and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission is to be commended for its leadership in promoting the control of precursor and essential chemicals as well as its timely effort in the drafting of model regulations to prevent drug money and asset laundering as called for in the 1988 international Convention against the traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. It is essential that these model regulations should receive the attention they deserve, both at this Assembly and thereafter by individual member states. If we are to succeed in our global efforts to halt the insidious drug trade and protect our peoples, and most especially our young people, we must join forces and cooperate on every front to resist this invasion of our cultures.

The Bahamas is especially attuned to the international drug trafficking problem, if only because we have been the victims of the international drug cartels who traversed our archipelago with impunity for the greater part of the decade of the eighties. We began to make measurable progress against this invasion in 1989. However, the advantage we have managed to achieve was due largely to the unique level of cooperation between Bahamian and United States' Law Enforcement Agencies which, I respectfully suggest, is truly worthy of emulation on the strength of its having been tried and tested and succeeded.

There are myriad problems and obstacles that we have confronted and will continue to face, both individually and collectively, as we traverse

the road that we believe will lead inexorably toward true and lasting democracy and peace and security for the peoples of the Americas. Each obstacle and every problem will have its peculiar impact on the evolution of our hemisphere in all its aspects, but none can decimate what we hold most dear; the development and prosperity of each and every country for the ever-increasing welfare of all our citizens. This, I am convinced, will only take place in an atmosphere of sustained peace and security built on the stable and vibrant foundations of democracy. The Argentine patriot and liberator, General José de San Martín, once said, "My mission is to protect the innocently oppressed, to help the unfortunate, to restore their rights to the inhabitants of this Region, and to promote their happiness..." So too is our mission. With equal depth of insight, General San Martín went on to say, "A government and its institutions have no force or duration unless they are upheld by public opinion." What we, therefore, do at the national level and what we do in this organization must always hark back to the people from whom we get our mandate and without whose guidance all of our efforts will be meaningless.

Mr. Secretary General, Honorable Ministers, Delegates, Observer Delegates, ladies and gentlemen: I wish that the success of your meetings would be reflected in a productive and meaningful session of this General Assembly held here in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. Thank you very much.

[Ladies and gentlemen, that concludes the ceremony here this morning. May I please invite you to remain in your places until the Prime Minister and party have left the theater. Thank you very much.]

[Se levanta la sesión a las 11 a.m.]