

Statement of the Government of Guatemala
recognizing the Independence of Belize

5 September 1991

The Government of the Republic of Guatemala declares that the recent decision by the State of Belize to limit its territorial sea and its hereditary EEZ makes it clear to the Government of Guatemala that the right of the Republic of Guatemala to its own territorial sea on the coast of the Caribbean and to its own EEZ is guaranteed.

Likewise, the Government of Guatemala welcomes with approval the Declaration of Belize which assures to Guatemala permanent access to the Caribbean from the Department of Peten and the use and development of port facilities in the State of Belize as well as the right to participate to mutual benefit in the joint exploitation of hereditary areas of the sea in the EEZ of Belize.

In view of this, the Government of Guatemala expresses its willingness to continue direct discussions with the independent State of Belize in order to arrive at a definitive solution to the dispute, which would permit us as neighbouring countries to live in peace and harmony and to make progress in the development of our peoples.

The Government of Guatemala considers that the important steps taken within the framework of international law constitute a fundamental bastion in the common effort to bring peace and stability to our region.

(Amandala, 13 September 1991, pp. 10-11)