

Remarks of Ambassador Luigi R.Einaudi  
U.S. Permanent Representative To the OAS  
On the Admission of Belize and Guyana to the OAS  
Special General Assembly of the OAS  
January 8, 1991

On behalf on my government, I join the other member states of the OAS in welcoming Belize and Guyana to join us as we begin what we all hope will be a new century of cooperation within the inter-American system.

If the addition of Belize and Guyana to the OAS simply expanded the ranks of member states, there would be little reason for comment. But in commitment and practice, Belize and Guyana have shown their support of Charter ideals. And we have good reason not just to note but to celebrate their joining us and to look ahead with high hopes.

Today's meeting represents a milestone in the progress of inter-American solidarity. The welcoming of Belize and Guyana into the OAS proves that inter-American solidarity is more than rhetoric. Our solidarity is a reality.

It is a reality that looks beyond the differences of geography and history, culture and language. Our solidarity does not abolish these differences. Nor does it guarantee automatic agreement on the issues that come before this

organization. But it is able to put common interests and shared values above the differences.

Our solidarity is founded on the cardinal principles of the OAS: representative democracy and the juridical equality and sovereignty of states.

It is a reality made possible by a decade of democratic transformation, a common recommitment to representative democracy, and the recognition that democracy is -- in the words of the Charter -- "an indispensable condition for the stability, peace, and development of the region."

No doubt, Belize and Guyana are committing themselves to the high purposes of the Charter with the legitimate expectation that membership will serve their national objectives. The rest of us, existing member states, will find, however, that we too are the beneficiaries of their participation in this organization.

Our diplomacy within this organization will be enhanced by their participation. Our dialogue within this forum will be enriched. The work of reaching common solutions to priority problems will be facilitated.

These new member states are solidly committed to democratic values; both espouse respect for human rights. As

last year ended and this one began, the member states of this organization are working together to assist the process of democratic transition in Haiti and have voiced in unison our protest against the affront to democracy in Suriname. We look to Belize and Guyana to add strength to our common voice and still greater efficacy to our endeavors on behalf of democracy and human rights.

Both Belize and Guyana aspire to economic development based on open and outward looking policies. Their contribution to inter-American efforts to liberalize and expand trade in the hemisphere and beyond will surely be welcome.

The problem of drug trafficking and consumption is continental -- indeed, intercontinental. Belize, tied by its geography to Central America and the Caribbean, and Guyana, both a Caribbean and a South American country, bring valuable perspectives to understanding this transcontinental menace. We look forward to the contributions of Belize and Guyana to OAS anti-drug programs.

In like manner, Belize and Guyana offer us perspectives on the environment owing to their special geographies and to the marvelous environmental assets which each enjoys -- Belize's barrier reef, the longest in the Western Hemisphere; Guyana's Kaieteur Falls and southern plains of Rupunni.

Last but certainly not least, the peaceful resolution of disputes is central to the concept and history of the inter-American system. Both Belize and Guyana have followed a peaceful path toward resolving disputes with their immediate neighbors. They and their neighbors -- to the credit of all concerned -- have demonstrated the will to move forward in peace. Indeed, it is the political will to resolve disputes peacefully that, in large measure, makes possible today's event.

My government has enjoyed good bilateral relations with both Belize and Guyana. We are not exceptional in this regard; both have been good neighbors to other OAS member states. We now look forward to multilateral cooperation with both in the OAS.