

STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR LUIGI R. EINAUDI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE OAS
TO THE OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL
REGARDING THE APPLICATIONS FOR OAS MEMBERSHIP OF
BELIZE AND GUYANA
December 20, 1990

Thank you Mr. Chairman

I would just like to add the voice of my delegation and through it the pleasure of the government of the United States that Belize and Guyana will soon be full members of the Organization of American States.

We share the views expressed around the table as to the importance of the universality of membership of states for this organization. We are delighted to see that the two new states that are about to join us are democratic states. We are as others have noted delighted with the unanimity with which the applications have been accorded favorable treatment. We find that the support of Guatemala and of Venezuela is not only elegant symbolically but is practical proof of the potential in this hemisphere for resolving disputes peacefully.

Finally I would note that there is in both of these individual states, because of their geographic locations and affinities, a special and encouraging quality. They are both Caribbean states; yet Belize is also (as underscored by the statement of our distinguished colleague from Costa Rica) welcomed as a Central American state, while Guyana is also a South American state.

In this sense both are in a position to demonstrate the possibility as well as the well known desirability of breaking down barriers among us that arise from differences in culture and background. We can all thus take pride that with these new members the recognition accorded by this Organization to the sovereign equality of states will also contribute to ensuring that cooperation and communication will be improved among us all.