



U.S. Permanent Mission to the  
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"Attempted Coup in Venezuela"

Statement of Ambassador Luigi R. Einaudi  
U.S. Permanent Representative of the OAS  
Special Session of the OAS Permanent Council  
November 27, 1992

Earlier this week, a U.S. delegation which I had the honor to lead, joined observers from both member and observer states in accompanying the Secretary General of our Organization, Ambassador Joao Clemente Baena Soares, in witnessing an important step in the building of democracy in Peru. The election of a Constituent Congress to work with President Fujimori was an auspicious moment in our common hemisphere-wide solidarity in the affirmation of democracy, and it was a moment the OAS helped critically to bring about.

It is therefore unfortunate that a shadow should fall across this moment of progress, and doubly ironic that it should be Venezuela, a country with one of the longest uninterrupted practices of democracy in the hemisphere, where today representative democracy should have come under violent assault.

Mr. Chairman, let me now read the statement issued by the White House Press Secretary earlier today:

President Bush spoke this morning with President (Carlos Andres) Perez of Venezuela. The President told President Perez he was disturbed to hear about the attempt to overthrow the democratically elected government of Venezuela. President Perez assured the President that he has the situation under control.

During their conversation, President Bush confirmed strong United States support for Venezuelan democracy and for President Perez. The President emphasized that the foundation of the United States policy in the region is support for democracy, and stated that while we understand Venezuela, like a number of nations, is going through a difficult period, authoritarian solutions just won't work.

The United States cannot have normal relations with a country that has abandoned democracy, and we will work with like-minded governments to support constitutional processes in any country where democracy is threatened.

So ends, Mr. Chairman, this White House statement that makes clear the many reasons that I am proud to have participated, with the delegations of Nicaragua and Chile, in calling this Special Session of the Permanent Council, and in helping to draft the resolution we have just adopted.

The United States supports Venezuela's duly elected constitutional President, Carlos Andres Perez, and with him Venezuela's democratic institutions. I would like to emphasize, as set out in resolutory paragraph three of the resolution, that my Government repudiates all those, in Venezuela or elsewhere, who attempt, through the use of force, to usurp popular sovereignty and interrupt the functioning of any democratically elected government in the hemisphere.

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In closing, let me say that we have every confidence that even in those member states where tensions exist, democracy shall overcome the tensions and that our collective vigilance will forestall those ambitious and impatient persons who seek undemocratic shortcuts. This Organization's defense of democracy has been received with substantial acceptance in Peru and with rather more resistance in Haiti. But in each case this democratic Inter-American Community has acted in accordance with our highest values and with our best hopes for the future.

We have no illusions that we will always be successful. But I note Assistant Secretary Aronson's comment that in today's hemisphere he has found success has come more readily in betting on hope rather than in trusting to fear. And I repeat the conclusion of today's White House statement:

The United States cannot have normal relations with a country that has abandoned democracy, and we will work with like-minded governments to support constitutional processes in any country where democracy is threatened.

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**SUPPORT FOR THE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA**  
**(Permanent Council Resolution, adopted by consensus, November 27, 1992)**

The Permanent Council of the Organization of American States

BEARING IN MIND,

That the Preamble of the Charter of the OAS establishes that "representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace, and development of the region;" and that one of the essential purposes of the Organization is "to promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention;"

RECALLING,

The Santiago Commitment to Democracy and the Renewal of the Inter-American System, adopted by the General Assembly in its twenty-first regular session in Santiago, Chile; CP/RES. 576 (887/92) "Support for the Democratic Government of Venezuela," adopted by the Permanent Council on February 4, 1992; and AG/RES 1189 (XXII-O/92) "Support for the Democratic Government of Venezuela," adopted by the General Assembly in its twenty-second regular session in Nassau, The Bahamas;

HAVING SEEN,

The events of this day, which constitute an attempted coup d'etat to overthrow the legitimately constituted government of the Republic of Venezuela;

RESOLVES:

1. To reject and condemn in the strongest terms the armed uprising against the democratic government of Venezuela.
  2. To express its resolute and unconditional support to the constitutional Government of Venezuela and its solidarity with President Carlos Andres Perez and the Venezuelan people.
  3. To repudiate all those who attempt, through the use of force, to usurp popular sovereignty and interrupt the functioning of any democratically elected government in the hemisphere.
  4. To reiterate the decision of the governments of the member states to abide by and strengthen the principles of democratic solidarity in keeping with the OAS Charter, and to reaffirm that there is no more room in the hemisphere for regimes that come to power by force.
  5. To instruct the Chairman of the Permanent Council to transmit this resolution to the Government of the Republic of Venezuela.
  6. To instruct the Secretary General of the Organization to transmit this resolution to the United Nations and to circulate it immediately and as widely as possible.
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