

REMARKS OF AMBASSADOR LUIGI R. EINAUDI WELCOMING
JOSE ROBERTO ANDINO, AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF EL SALVADOR
OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION OF OCTOBER 7, 1992

Mr. Chairman:

In the name of the United States -- fifty states which remain very much united, even with the political weather that we are now living -- I would like to add my voice to welcome your presence as Chairman of the Permanent Council. I was able to thank the outgoing Chairman, Ambassador Londono, during the last session. I will only say that from your long experience, and your courtesy, I look forward to cooperating with you during these next three months.

I also wanted to welcome Ambassador Roberto Andino. I welcome him not only as an accomplished diplomat who has more than completed the apprenticeship that we all need, but also as a representative of El Salvador.

El Salvador is an important country for the United States at this particular moment in history. I am sure that most of you are aware that Secretary Aronson was in El Salvador for three days last week, meeting with a broad spectrum of Salvadoran leaders and political forces, to demonstrate our continuing support for what we see as the irreversible peace process in El Salvador, which deserves the continued participation of everyone.

We also welcome Ambassador Andino, not only because he strengthens the delegation of El Salvador here, and perhaps lightens the work of our good friend Margarita Escobar, who has done so well by herself, but also because his presence strengthens the representation of Central America here. The United States feels strongly that Central America has made significant progress in these last years, progress across a broad range of areas, in some where it has gotten credit from the external world, in others, including human rights, where we think that it has not received credit equivalent to the amount of progress that it has made.

I noted that Ambassador Andino mentioned demining. This is a project to which I am personally totally committed, and we are going to try to work in every way to ensure that it starts in Nicaragua and continues in other countries.

So let me just close by saying that I and members of my delegation will be at Ambassador Andino's disposal. In fact, I will mention one small precedent that is interesting in terms of the attention the United States government as a whole gives to the OAS. I have here sitting behind me Hilarion Martinez, who is the country officer in the State Department responsible for our bilateral relations with El Salvador. In a sense, his presence symbolizes the fact that we are determined more than ever to combine and harmonize our multilateral efforts with our bilateral efforts.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman