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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF  
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

Note verbale dated 29 September 1978 from the Permanent  
Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour, in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of Seventy-seven in New York, to request, in accordance with a decision adopted at the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of Seventy-seven held at United Nations Headquarters today, 29 September 1978, that the attached Declaration be circulated as an official document of the thirty-third session of the General Assembly under agenda items 12, 24, 58 and 77.

Annex

Declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of  
the Group of Seventy-seven at United Nations Headquarters  
on 29 September 1978

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of Seventy-seven, meeting at the outset of the thirty-third session of the General Assembly, reviewed the evolution of the international economic situation and the state of negotiations with the developed countries relevant to the establishment of the New International Economic Order, and issued the following Declaration:

1. In reaffirming the Declaration adopted by them on 29 September 1977, the Ministers note with great satisfaction the ever-growing and deepening unity and solidarity of the Group of Seventy-seven, notwithstanding the different levels of economic and social development of member States. They further note the increase in activities and programmes of action for economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, demonstrating the common purpose of the member States of the Group of Seventy-seven and their determination to contribute, through measures of collective self-reliance, to the establishment of the New International Economic Order. They express their intention to continue and intensify contacts and consultations among developing countries with a view to elaborating their common positions in negotiations with the developed countries.
2. The Ministers reiterate their strong belief that urgent, more vigorous and concrete steps and actions still remain to be taken, collectively and individually, by all the members of the international community to end without delay colonialism, imperialism, neo-colonialism, interference in internal affairs, apartheid, racial discrimination and all forms of foreign aggression and occupation, which constitute major obstacles to the economic emancipation of the developing countries. They stress that it is the duty of all States effectively to support and extend assistance to the countries, territories and peoples subjected to, and affected by, these practices so as to restore their national sovereignty, territorial integrity and all other inalienable and fundamental rights, including the right to self-determination, in order to enable them to achieve independence, and to promote development and international co-operation, peace and security. They also urge all countries to refrain from participating in, encouraging or promoting, in any way, any investment or economic activities aimed at trade, or exploitations of any resources, or investments in economic activities in the territories subjected to the aforementioned practices.
3. The Ministers view with grave concern the continuing deterioration of the international economic situation and its inherent dangers and note that the inequities of the present global economic system have not only persisted but have significantly worsened, owing largely to the adverse economic policies of the major industrialized countries. They note in this connexion

that developing countries continue to suffer from the adverse effects of fluctuations in commodity prices, uncertainty from continuing exchange rate instability, inflation in the developed countries, growing protectionism against exports of developing countries by developed countries, increasing debt burdens, deteriorating terms of trade, lack of adequate access to capital markets and technology, and increasing balance-of-payments difficulties, the failure of developed countries to meet the official development assistance target as well as the lack of action to solve the special problems and meet the pressing needs of the least-developed, land-locked, island and most seriously affected developing countries as well as the newly independent ones among them.

4. The Ministers deeply regret that there has been no real progress in negotiations towards the restructuring of international economic relations, which is indispensable for the establishment of the New International Economic Order, and particularly in negotiations on important areas relevant thereto, such as the Integrated Programme for Commodities and the common fund for commodities, multilateral trade negotiations, transfer of resources, international monetary reform, debt and industrialization of developing countries including transformation of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization into a specialized agency. They further view with serious concern the fact that discussions having a substantive bearing on important international economic questions affecting the vital interests of developing countries, such as those relating to the multilateral trade negotiations, continue to take place without their participation, and without due regard to those interests.

5. The Ministers firmly consider the stalemate in most of these negotiations to be a consequence of the continued absence of adequate political will on the part of most developed countries, particularly the major industrialized ones, to engage in the genuine and meaningful negotiations required for the establishment of the New International Economic Order.

6. In this context the Ministers consider that the recent breakdown in the work of the Committee of the Whole on the establishment of the New International Economic Order set up under General Assembly resolution 32/174, and the failure even to agree on the way in which to fulfil its mandate, really reflects the reluctance of developed countries to come to grips with the indispensable structural and other changes in international economic relations, which are vital not only to the interest of developing countries, but indeed to the future of the world community. The Ministers stress therefore the fact that the primary condition for success in the work of the Committee is the demonstration by all developed countries of their genuine political will to enter into negotiations with developing countries in order to achieve real progress, through concrete decisions, on the issues before the Committee.

7. The Ministers strongly reaffirm that the United Nations system is the

only framework within which all negotiations of a global nature relating to the establishment of the New International Economic Order should take place. In this regard, and reaffirming the need for equal participation of all countries in the decision-making process, they emphasize the central role of the General Assembly.

8. The Ministers reiterate the unrelenting commitment of the developing countries to the New International Economic Order and reaffirm the readiness of developing countries for genuine dialogue and negotiations with developed countries on all issues pertaining to its establishment. They expect that deliberations and negotiations at the current session of the General Assembly as well as in other forums, in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, will result in significant progress towards the establishment of the New International Economic Order.

9. In this context, the Ministers stress the need for the current session of the General Assembly to determine, in accordance with the principles and objectives of the New International Economic Order, policy guidelines for the preparation of the new international development strategy with the full participation and involvement of all States. In this regard, the strategy should, within the framework of consistent and specific goals and objectives, include commitments to implement concrete measures within specific time-frames.

10. The Ministers emphasize the need for a new international order in the field of information as an important component of the efforts led by the developing countries to forge new international relations in general and in particular to establish the New International Economic Order. To this end they express their determination to strengthen individually and collectively their mass communications media. Furthermore they call on the information media in developed countries to support the principles and objectives of the New International Economic Order. The Office of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat and other international information services should increase their activities in all fields of interest to developing countries, in particular in the economic field, in conformity with the objectives of the New International Economic Order.

11. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs call upon all developed countries to fulfil meaningfully their roles in negotiations relating to the establishment of the New International Economic Order, so that real progress may be achieved before the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 1980, thus creating favourable conditions for its success and for successfully launching the new international development strategy.