

For Information

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27 September 1977

MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE GROUP OF 77

DRAFT DECLARATION

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Group of 77 met on 29 September 1977, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and issued the following declaration:-

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs,

1. Note with satisfaction that since its inception, the Group of 77 has worked with vigour and determination for the development of developing countries and towards an equitable and just international economic order through the restructuring of international economic relations. The Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States marked turning points in the pursuit of this objective.
2. Note with particular satisfaction that the positive results so far achieved by the Group of 77 have been primarily due to its unity and solidarity. The members of the Group of 77 recognize that, notwithstanding the diversity of interests in the Group arising primarily from the different levels of economic and social development, its strength lies in its political unity which results from common aspirations and purpose and its identity of fundamental interests. We, therefore, do solemnly reaffirm our commitment to maintain, strengthen and further develop our unity and solidarity.
3. Note that international economic relations continue to suffer from the consequences of an inequitable and unjust economic system and lack of real

progress towards the restructuring of international economic relations which is indispensable for the establishment of the New International Economic Order.

4. Note with serious concern the ever widening gap between developed and developing countries and the lack of adequate and resolute efforts on the part of developed countries to reverse this trend. To mention only a few areas, no concrete action has been taken to meet the just demands of the developing countries to improve their terms of trade; inflation generated in developed countries has, through international trade and the international monetary system, produced universal negative effects with disruptive consequences on the economies and development of the developing countries; no effective or serious solutions have been forthcoming concerning the problems of commodities, debt, balance of payments, protection of the purchasing power of the developing countries, trade, transfer of technology, increase in the flow of real resources, and access to capital markets. The renewed trend towards protectionism in the developed countries is a cause of deep concern because of its negative impact on the export earnings of developing countries, on their terms of trade, employment policies and development efforts. This lack of real progress and the unwillingness on the part of developed countries to seriously commit themselves to solving these and other pressing problems was clearly demonstrated in the results of CIEC. (Conference on International Economic Cooperation)

5. Reaffirm our 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, apartheid, racial discrimination and all forms of foreign aggression and occupation, which constitute major obstacles to the economic emancipation of the developing countries as a whole. We stress that it is the duty of all States to effectively support and extend assistance to the countries, territories and peoples subjected to, and affected by, these practices so as to restore their national sovereignty, their territorial integrity, and all other inalienable and fundamental national rights, including the right to self-determination and independence, in order to enable them to achieve independence, and to promote development and international cooperation, peace and security. We also urge all countries to refrain from participating in, encouraging or permitting, in any way, any investment or economic activities aimed at trade, exploitation of any resources, or investments on economic activities in territories subject to these practices. We reaffirm further the right of these countries and peoples to regain full and effective control over their natural resources and all other resources and economic activities as well as their right to the restitution and full compensation for the exploitation, loss and depletion of, and damage to, these resources and activities. We reaffirm the inalienable right of developing countries to full and permanent sovereignty over their natural resources and all economic activities, including the right of nationalization according to their national laws.

6. Reiterate the commitment of the developing countries to condemn, reject and resist all forms of threats or coercive and discriminatory economic policies and practices, either direct or indirect against individual, or groups of, developing countries by the developed countries.
7. Continue to view with deep concern the negative aspects of the activities of transnational corporations, including their corrupt practices, in developing countries and in particular their collaboration with illegal minority, racist and apartheid regimes.

8. In view of the foregoing, reaffirm the commitment of the Group of 77 to continue vigorously the struggle for the establishment of the New International Economic Order.
9. Emphasize that the restructuring of the international economic system and the acceleration and sustained development of the developing countries are in the interest of the international community and are essential to the continued prosperity of the economies of the developed countries. However, despite the recognition by the international community of the need for the New International Economic Order, very few concrete measures have been agreed upon by the developed countries for its establishment. So far these measures have been fragmented and limited in scope. The developed countries bear a particular responsibility with regard to the attainment of this goal. The developed countries must demonstrate the necessary political will in this regard.
10. Believe that the objective of the establishment of the New International Economic Order should be genuinely shared by all countries and concerned efforts for its achievement should be undertaken through cooperation between developed and developing countries, keeping in view the interdependence of their economies, and on the basis of the principles of equity and sovereign equality.
11. Urge the developed countries to pay special and urgent attention to the particular and pressing needs and requirements of the least-developed, land-locked, most seriously affected and island developing countries, and to implement within specific time-frames the special measures and decisions adopted in their favour by the organs, organizations and other bodies of the United Nations system.

12. Emphasize that whatever progress has been achieved towards the establishment of the New International Economic Order has primarily been due to the efforts of the developing countries themselves. The developing countries will continue to make contributions towards achieving this end by promoting their individual and collective self-reliance through economic and technical cooperation among themselves and a collective approach to matters of common interest.

13. Believe that the full and effective participation of the developing countries in the decision making process in the organs, organizations and other bodies of the United Nations system, on all questions of interest to developing countries, wherever they may be discussed, is of crucial importance for the achievement of concrete and positive results for the promotion of international cooperation for the development of developing countries.

14. Reaffirm the urgent need for the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system so as to make it more effective and responsive to the requirements for the establishment of the New International Economic Order, and in that context, reiterate the proposals submitted by the Group of 77 to the Ad Hoc Committee for the Restructuring of the United Nations system [including the proposal for the establishment of a post of Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation⁷].

15. Stress the need that all negotiations of a global nature relating to the establishment of the New International Economic Order take place within the framework of the United Nations system, which is the only appropriate and fully representative forum for these negotiations.

16. Consider that at the current session of the General Assembly, all Member States of the United Nations should, when dealing with economic issues, concentrate their attention on negotiations towards the establishment of the New International Economic Order. In that context the General Assembly should provide guidelines for the conduct of negotiations in the appropriate bodies within the United Nations system, with a view to reaching concrete and positive results within specific time-frames. Any outstanding problems encountered in such negotiations should be referred back to the General Assembly for review and possible solution.

17. Call for the convening of a special session of the General Assembly at the ministerial level by early 1980 at the latest in order to assess the progress made in the various forums of the United Nations system in the establishment of the New International Economic Order and in the light of that assessment to take appropriate action for further promotion of the development of developing countries and international economic cooperation including the adoption of the New International Development Strategy.

18. [Consider that this meeting was useful and successful and express the desire that such meetings should become a regular practice of the Group of 77 in the future.]*

* This paragraph is submitted for an appropriate decision by the Group of 77 at the ambassadorial level.