

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

At the invitation of the Citizen President of the Republic of Venezuela, His Excellency Dr. Luis Herrera Campins, the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga paid an official visit to the Republic of Venezuela from September 10 to 12, 1981.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Mitsy Seaga and the following ^{persons;} the Hon. Neville Gallimore, Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Reginald E. K. Philips, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Jamaica to Venezuela, His Excellency Hugh Hart, President of the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica and the Jamaica Bauxite Institute, Hon. Carlton Alexander, Chairman of Jamaica National Investment Promotion, Dr. Carlton Davis, Executive Director of the Jamaica Bauxite Institute, Mr. Ken Jones, Executive Director of the Agency for Public Information, Miss Patricia Durrant, Acting Director of the Political Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Miss R. Evadne Coye, Counsellor, Embassy of Jamaica in Venezuela, and Miss Dorothy Carter, Personal Assistant to the Prime Minister.

During his visit, Prime Minister Seaga was received by the President of the Republic, Dr. Luis Herrera Campins.

In an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister reviewed the state of bilateral relations between their two countries, and exchanged views on important international and regional issues, particularly those concerning the present situation in the Caribbean and Central America.

They reiterated the firm commitment of Venezuela and Jamaica to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the unwavering respect of their peoples and governments for the right of all States of the international community to their full development based on the juridical equality of States, ideological pluralism, non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries and the exclusion of the threat or the use of force, in international relations. They emphasised their total support for the principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes.

They reaffirmed their confidence in the Organisation of American States and agreed on the necessity of strengthening it as an adequate mechanism to promote dialogue and cooperation among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Referring to the representative democracy practised in both countries, they declared that this system offers their peoples the alternative of progress, prosperity and social justice without sacrificing liberty. In this sense, both parties agreed to emphasise their disposition to encourage the processes of institutionalizing liberty and democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean.

They emphasised the importance of efforts at the national level aimed at achieving the full exercise of fundamental freedoms and the enjoyment of human rights. In this regard, they underlined the firm determination of their Governments to continue their efforts aimed at consolidating and guaranteeing, in the ambit of their respective countries, human rights in their widest dimension as civil, political, social, cultural and economic rights.

Following careful analysis of the political situation in the Caribbean region, they urged all states to respect the determination of the countries of the Caribbean that this area be maintained as a zone of peace.

Examining the situation in Central America, they stated their common objective to make the greatest effort to contribute to peace and stability in that region, in the spirit of solidarity which inspires them, and of the strictest respect for the principle of non-intervention.

With regard to El Salvador, they reaffirmed their position that the Salvadoreans themselves should determine their own destiny free from foreign intervention, and ratified their support for efforts to achieve peace and attain social justice in a pluralist democratic system.

Referring to the international economic situation, and in particular that of the countries of Central America and the Caribbean, they hoped for the success of the efforts made by developing countries such as Venezuela and Mexico, and industrialized countries like the United States and Canada, to seek to implement new modalities of cooperation, to give a new impulse to the progress of the region. They emphasised the importance of the efforts being made by the Caribbean states to accelerate their economic and social development, and agreed that there should be an early formulation of a Caribbean Basin Development Programme, so as not to lose the momentum of the initiatives already taken.

The President and the Prime Minister, after examining the projects which had been implemented within the framework of cooperation between both countries, expressed their pleasure at the dynamic and effective manner in which the projects were being carried out.

The Prime Minister of Jamaica and his Honourable delegation and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela and representatives of Venezuelan Government agencies, held working meetings. They exchanged opinions on matters of mutual interest and agreed on the need to intensify economic, technical and cultural cooperation between their two countries, in the public and private sectors.

Both Governments declared their willingness to support the involvement of the private sector in the programmes of co-operation, as well as to take steps to intensify bilateral co-operation in the fields of education, culture, agriculture, skill-training, mixed enterprises, joint ventures, export promotion, commercial information, market studies, trade missions and any other field, which may be of interest to both countries

It was agreed that the Venezuelan Investment Fund would deposit in the Bank of Jamaica a sum of twenty five million dollars (US\$25 million) to cover balance of payments deficits. The conditions of this deposit will be discussed at a later date.

Both sides agreed to hold at an early date, the third meeting of the Jamaica/Venezuela mixed commission, which was established in accordance with the Joint Declaration signed by the Foreign Minister of both countries on May 15, 1970.

They emphasised the coincidence of views in areas of mutual interest, as evidenced during the visit, as well as the conviction that the realization of joint activities and the development of projects for mutual benefits will promote fulfilment of the desires for unity, fraternity, progress and democracy, which shape the common destiny of their peoples.

They shared the confidence that the talks held in an atmosphere of cordial understanding, would have a great significance in the solidifying of bonds which have traditionally united the peoples of Venezuela and Jamaica and contributed to strengthening the relations between the two countries.

Looking forward to the early successful conclusion of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, they noted, in particular the decision in the recent session on the Conference that the Headquarters of the International Seabed Authority should be located in Jamaica. In this regard, the Prime Minister of Jamaica expressed appreciation for the support which Venezuela gave to Jamaica's candidature.

Reiterating their full support for all efforts aimed at the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, and in particular apartheid, they shared the hope that the people of Namibia will soon exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, and that the apartheid system in South Africa will soon be eradicated.

Prime Minister Seaga expressed his appreciation of the willingness of Venezuela to assist Jamaica in its programme of economic recovery.

He conveyed his deep gratitude for the warm hospitality shown to him, his wife, and his delegation during their pleasant stay in Venezuela, and extended an invitation to President Luis Herrera Campins to visit Jamaica officially.

The invitation was accepted with special satisfaction by President Herrera Campins, and the visit will take place at a date to be decided.

AGENCY FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION (JAMAICA)

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CONTACT: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

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