



INTERACTION COUNCIL

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COMMUNIQUE
MEETING OF THE FOUNDING COMMITTEE
VIENNA, 7-9 MARCH 1983

A group of statesmen from both developed and developing countries meeting in Vienna have launched an international Initiative to contribute to the promotion of action on world peace and development. The participants who have held the highest responsibilities in their respective countries as Heads of State or Heads of Government have come together to originate this Initiative at the joint invitation of Mr. Takeo Fukuda in his capacity as Chairman of the Global Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, and of Mr. Bradford Morse, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme. The participants are as follows:

Mr. Takeo Fukuda, Prime Minister of Japan from 1976 to 1979

Mr. Manea Manescu, Prime Minister of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania from 1974 to 1979

Mr. Hédi Nourira, Prime Minister of Tunisia from 1970 to 1980

Dr. Misael Pastrana Borrero, President of Colombia from 1970 to 1974

Mr. Léopold Sédar Senghor, President of the Republic of Senegal from 1960 to 1980

Dr. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations from 1972 to 1981

In addition, Dr. Helmut Schmidt, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany from 1974 to 1982, although unable to attend the meeting, has agreed to participate in the Initiative and to endorse the conclusions of this first session. Mr. Edward Heath, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1970 to 1974, participated in the meeting and, as a Member of the Independent Commission on International Development Issues, the Brandt Commission, he outlined the conclusions of the Commission's most recent work.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the participants adopted the following communique:

We have decided to undertake an Initiative as a result of our deep concern over the world situation as it is today, and as it may develop in the absence of effective international action. Having reviewed the serious political and economic difficulties and imbalances confronting the world community, and the resulting threats to economic and social progress and world peace, we wish to emphasize the urgency of initiating concerted action on major world development-related issues.

There is an evident need to encourage and preserve co-operation among nations at this time of tension and uncertainty in world affairs, when public opinion in many countries is preoccupied with immediate domestic problems. We find it regrettable that so many efforts to advance the cause of development have produced so little practical progress. We therefore intend that the Initiative shall concentrate on the implications and opportunities of international interdependence among nations, recognizing that new approaches and strategies are needed to promote world peace and development as a matter of vital and urgent common interest of all nations, developing and developed.

The numerous international meetings, studies and resolutions on world development issues have not resulted in political decisions and effective action. The Initiative must therefore build on the basis of analyses already conducted and efforts already undertaken in the United Nations and elsewhere, but it will focus essentially on stimulating action on major world development-related issues and on promoting changes in attitudes and conceptions of development.

During our meeting, we have been able to decide on specific steps to launch the Initiative. We have agreed to call together, later in 1983, a group of 20 or 25 former Heads of State or Government from all over the world, thus constituting an action committee to direct a continuing process of reflection, consultation and action, so as to intensify and broaden the international dialogue on major world development-related issues at the highest levels, and to clarify key issues where progress can be made. We have designated Dr. Kurt Waldheim, former Secretary-General of the United Nations to be Chairman of this group and Mr. Bradford Morse as Secretary-General of the Initiative. It is intended that this group of senior statesmen will be complemented by an informal network of eminent persons in the world political, intellectual and business communities and from non-governmental organizations, so as to ensure its proper linkage to ideas and efforts to promote peace and development throughout the world. Recognizing that the ability of governments to act depends on the understanding and support of public opinion, we have also agreed to make arrangements to ensure the proper association of the press and media with the Initiative.

Through this Initiative, we will endeavour to propose realistic lines of action on specific issues, together with suggestions as to how governments, organizations and public opinion may be motivated and mobilized to support them. We will particularly need to seek innovative ways of communication and persuasion, and we have therefore decided that the proposals resulting from the Initiative shall be conveyed directly, through a series of high level missions by the participants, to the capitals of key industrialized and developing countries.

We have also had a first exchange of views on the main issues for which, on an urgent basis, the plenary group should seek to develop action proposals. Among the issues raised, the following were given particular importance: the current depressed levels of economic activity and employment in the developed and developing countries; the imbalances and instability of

the world monetary system and the external debt of the developing countries; diminishing flows of concessional and non-concessional resources to developing countries; the terms of trade between developing and developed countries and the impact of protectionism; the negative effects of the arms race and the expenditure of resources devoted to armaments on the prospects for world development; the implications of projected population growth in relation to food supplies, energy availability and to over-all, longer term constraints on development. We also consider that the United Nations Organization can play a greater role in the solution of the major problems with which humanity is confronted.

To ensure a rapid start, we have, in addition, constituted a small executive group to supervise the preparations and agreed on a budget to be raised from specific contributions to support the Initiative.

During its meeting in Vienna, the participants were received by Dr. Rudolf Kirchschläger, President of the Republic of Austria, Dr. Bruno Kreisky, Chancellor and Dr. Willibald Pahr, Foreign Minister who, underlining the importance attached by Austria to the issues of world development, conveyed the wishes of the Government and people of Austria for the success of the Initiative.



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