

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

WELCOME ADDRESS

by

the President of the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Veselin Djuranović, at the Opening of the Second Session of the InterAction Council of Former Heads of Government

24 May 1984

Brioni, Yugoslavia

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Comrades,
Dear Friends,

It is my great honour and pleasure to welcome you, the eminent personalities gathered in the InterAction Council, most sincerely, on behalf of the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and to wish you success in your work and a pleasant stay at Brioni.

Some of you were President Tito's guests on this island which for years was the place of fruitful exchanges of views and ideas between statesmen, aimed at securing peace in the world, developing an equitable cooperation and more just international relations. It was here that the co-founders of the non-aligned policy, Tito, Nehru and Nasser, expressing the aspiration of mankind for peace and freedom, jointly concluded already in 1956 that peace cannot be achieved by dividing the world into powerful blocs of countries, but by equitable cooperation in accordance with the principles of peaceful coexistence, as well as by ending the domination of one country over another. On this basis evolved the policy of non-alignment and the non-aligned movement, which in the meantime has grown into a strong and active independent force on the international scene and pointed, by its political and economic programme, to the right solutions of the accumulated problems in accordance with the needs and demands of our time.

Unfortunately, the constant deterioration of international political and economic relations we have been witness to in recent years increasingly threatens international cooperation and world peace and security. The deterioration of the international

situation at this moment is nearing the critical point when, despite the recognition of a dramatic denouement, the real possibility and ways of stopping the deterioration, of protecting mankind and encouraging the superpowers in particular, to revive detente and forgo the road of confrontation, appear to be blurred. The deep crisis has been brought about primarily by bloc rivalry, the use of force and interference, failure to solve hotbeds of crisis and other pressing problems, as well as by the arms race, world economic crisis and the widening gap between developed and developing countries. Violations of the rights of peoples to decide on their own destiny and the social systems of their countries, and new forms of political and economic domination are becoming ever more frequent. Negotiations are stalled and superseded by competition and threats. Instead of greater security and stability, the risk of self-annihilation is increasing.

We are therefore faced today with the most urgent task of seeking a way out of such a state of affairs and of creating conditions which will lead to a more lasting and universal detente through the restoration of confidence and the solution of problems based on the respect for equality, freedom of each country to decide on its own development, differing interests and an equitable participation of all countries. Welcome in these efforts is any initiative and proposal, which should be received in the same spirit of goodwill in which they are submitted.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

We are living in a world of growing interdependence, of great shifts and changes, including a rapid technological development which affect all spheres of life. They serve as new foundations for the future development which will determine the position of individual countries as well as our common destiny.

Unless the developing countries find their place in this process, the existing gap between the developed and developing world will further deepen and bring about more adverse

political, social and economic consequences for the whole world.

The most pressing problem in the present international relations is the critical situation of developing countries. Even though the causes and possible consequences of such a situation are well known today, the fact that nothing is being done to change it is untenable.

The least developed countries are in an extremely difficult situation and their specific problems call for a greater solidarity of the international community and its urgent engagement and assistance which has already been decided upon by the United Nations and other international fora.

The hopes that joint efforts of all countries will solve the fundamental problems of the world economic relations through negotiations have not yet materialized. For a number of years now the negotiations have been completely stalled, despite all the efforts of the non-aligned movement and the Group of 77, as well as of numerous developed countries and various international governmental and non-governmental bodies. The situation in the developing countries continues to deteriorate dramatically and threatens not only to check the process of their development with dangerous social upheavals, but also to endanger the economic recovery of the developed countries which is underway, but is not yet certain.

Therefore, the problem you are to tackle in your actions and endeavours are of the greatest importance and should be in the centre of the activities of the international community.

Debts have become today the priority issue in the world economic relations. They threaten most seriously not only the economies of a large number of developing countries, but also the entire international monetary and financial system and bring into question the process of world reproduction in general, if

the present unsustainable trend of borrowing is continued. At its first session your Council warned of the drama of this situation. Unfortunately, the problems are left unsolved and are worsening. What encourages, however, is the growing awareness that the responsibility for such a situation does not rest upon the debtors alone but also upon the creditors, and that they should jointly seek solutions to this extremely grave and pressing problem of the present-day world.

Solutions can be found only within the framework of broader international economic relations taking into account both the interest of the creditors and the long-term development needs of the debtors the developing countries. For only by ensuring a further economic growth of the developing countries it would be possible to solve the problem of indebtedness. To this end, in addition to the enormous efforts made by the developing countries themselves -and my country, among them, by the adoption and implementation of a long-term programme of economic stabilization - it is necessary to secure a greater access to the markets of the developed countries for the products from the developing ones and an adequate flow of financial resources for development. It is evident that debtor countries must adjust their economic and development policies. This, however, should be accompanied by corresponding changes and adjustments of outside factors, in order not to impede the further development of developing countries. It is therefore necessary to find a way to check the process of the real outflow of capital from developing to developed countries.

The economic recovery in the developed countries alone is in itself insufficient to spark off the resolution of the problems of the developing countries. We know that the economic gap between the developed and developing countries widened even at the time when the economies of the developed countries were in full expansion. The system which reproduces and deepens economic dispari-

ties and intensifies polarization is still prevalent in the world. Accordingly, there still remains the imperative of the establishment of new international economic relations and a more just order.

Great scientific and technological achievements offer real possibilities for a common progress. However, this is being prevented by deeply rooted egoisms and fencing-in. It is our duty to raise ourselves above that and to seek together a way out of the problems we are all faced with. International development cooperation is an objective necessity of our time. The problems of the contemporary world call for joint actions and solutions. It is obvious that developing countries alone cannot change their highly unfavourable position in international economic relations. But, there is also no doubt that, with the existing economic relations, the developed countries cannot ensure a sustained and dynamic rate of growth, and thereby a harmonized development of the world economy which is in the interest of peace, security and general progress.

Much has been said about the solution of the accumulated problems. However, little, much too little, has actually been done. Admittedly, there have been numerous initiatives and useful proposals, such as the one on convening a new international monetary conference. But we also need new ways out of this difficult situation we are faced with today, including inevitable changes of the present international relations and the launching of the global negotiations within the framework of the United Nations. An agreement on their soonest possible launching would reflect the readiness to address the world economic and monetary problems, the readiness to cooperate internationally on an equal footing. Thus, a new way would be opened to a broader dialogue on the essential problems of the present-day world that would give an impetus to the development processes in the developing countries.

In the end, I would like to recall that numerous

meetings and talks among statesmen on this island were imbued with the aspirations towards peace and a better future of the world. Your activities have also been inspired by the same aspiration, and I am confident that your rich experience, reputation and influence can render a significant contribution to the efforts of the international community in general to safeguard and strengthen peace and to bring about a more rapid development, progress and more humane international relations. I wish you much success in your deliberations.