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Part 17

PRIME MINISTER'S

Brasília, 10th July 1984.

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 121^a/84

Dear Prime Minister,

I thank Your Excellency for the courtesy of your letter of June ^{18th} ~~5th~~ last. I was pleased to note that Your Excellency and the other Heads of Government present at the recent Summit Meeting in London devoted special attention to the economic problems brought about to a large number of Latin-American countries by the serious foreign debt situation.

The economic position of the Latin-American countries has considerably worsened during the last few months, which led me, together with other Heads of Latin-American Governments, to address a letter to the members of the Summit Meeting in London.

Your Excellency's remark that the above-mentioned letter, as well as the Quito Declaration and the Plan of Action of 14th January were always present in the thoughts of the Heads of State and Government at the London Economic Summit is, in my view, a positive development.

I have noted the progress made at the Summit Meeting, a good example of which is the awareness of the importance of the foreign debt. Although differences of opinion still exist, the progress achieved reveals the existence of perspectives for the dialogue and the understanding between the Governments of the countries represented at the Summit and those of the debtor countries. I must add that, more recently, at the Cartagena Conference, in Colombia, on the 21st and 22nd

of June last, eleven Latin-American countries set a series of principles and concrete propositions which, as we see it, represent a valid and realistic basis for the search of solutions to the problem of the excessive onus represented by the service of the debt to the Latin-American countries.

The Brazilian Government singles out the crisis of indebtedness and its economic, social and political implications as a source of unceasing concern. Urgent action towards a satisfactory handling of the problem has become all the more imperative and essential.

I believe that the results of the Cartagena Conference and the conclusions reached at the Summit in London have created specially favourable conditions for a more comprehensive and deeper dialogue between the Governments of the debtor and creditor countries. In its essence such dialogue should constitute a joint appraisal of the question of the foreign debt and its multiple ramifications. Its main objective should be that of considering constructive measures for the solution of the problem of the excessive onus of the service of the debt, so that development could be resumed in the debtor countries and expansion of international economy sustained.

I avail myself of the opportunity to renew to Your Excellency my sincere wishes for your personal happiness and the assurances of my highest consideration.

Signed) João Baptista de Oliveira Figueiredo