



**INTERACTION  
COUNCIL  
OF  
FORMER HEADS  
OF  
GOVERNMENT**

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- \*Kurt Waldheim, Chairman  
Austria
- \*Takeo Fukuda, Convenor  
Japan
- Ahmadou Ahidjo  
United Republic of Cameroon
- Giulio Andreotti  
Italy
- Kirti Nidhi Bista  
Nepal
- James Callaghan  
United Kingdom
- Jacques Chaban-Delmas  
France
- Kriangsak Chornanan  
Thailand
- Mathias Mainza Chona  
Zambia
- Jenő Fock  
Hungary
- Malcolm Fraser  
Australia
- Arturo Frondizi  
Argentina
- Kurt Furgler  
Switzerland
- Selim Hoss  
Lebanon
- Manea Mănescu  
Romania
- Michael Manley  
Jamaica
- Hédi Nouria  
Tunisia
- Olusegun Obasanjo  
Nigeria
- Ahmed Osman  
Morocco
- Misael Pastrana Borrero  
Colombia
- Carlos Andrés Pérez  
Venezuela
- Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo  
Portugal
- Mitja Ribičič  
Yugoslavia
- Helmut Schmidt  
Federal Republic of Germany
- Léopold Sédar Senghor  
Senegal
- Ola Ullsten  
Sweden
  
- Bradford Morse  
Secretary General

FINAL STATEMENT

First Session

VIENNA

18 November 1983

*Founding Members*

FINAL STATEMENT

1. From 16 to 18 November 1983, the InterAction Council of Former Heads of Government held its first session in the Hofburg Palace in Vienna. Chaired by Dr. Kurt Waldheim, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, the InterAction Council comprises 26 respected and highly experienced members who have agreed to combine their vast experience, in their individual capacities, to promote practical political action on priority issues affecting world peace and development. The participants at the Vienna meeting were as follows:

Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations, 1971-1981  
Chairman

Ahmadou Ahidjo, President of the United Republic of Cameroon,  
1960-1982

Kirti Nidhi Bista, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Nepal,  
1969-1970, 1971-1973 and 1977-1979

Jacques Chaban-Delmas, Prime Minister of France, 1969-1972

Kriangsak Chomanan, Prime Minister of Thailand, 1977-1980

Mathias Mainza Chona, Prime Minister of the Republic of Zambia,  
1973-1975 and 1977-1978

Jenő Fock, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Hungarian  
People's Republic, 1967-1975

Malcolm Fraser, Prime Minister of Australia, 1975-1983

Takeo Fukuda, Prime Minister of Japan, 1976-1978

Kurt Furgler, President of Switzerland, 1977 and 1981

Selim Hoss, Prime Minister of Lebanon, 1976-1980

Manea Mănescu, Prime Minister of the Government, Socialist Republic  
of Romania, 1974-1979

Michael Manley, Prime Minister of Jamaica, 1972-1980

Hédi Nouira, Prime Minister of Tunisia, 1970-1980

Olusegun Obasanjo, Head of the Federal Military Government of  
Nigeria, 1976-1979

Missel Pastrana Borrero, President of Colombia, 1970-1974

Carlos Andrés Pérez, President of Venezuela, 1974-1979

Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, Prime Minister of Portugal, 1979

Mitja Ribicic, President, Federal Executive Council of the Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia, 1969-1971

Ola Ullsten, Prime Minister of Sweden, 1978-1979

2. Some members of the Council, who for various other obligations could not be present at the session, addressed messages to the participants in Vienna. Such statements were received from Mr. James Callaghan, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Mr. Arturo Frondizi, former President of Argentina, Mr. Ahmed Osman, former Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Morocco, and Mr. Helmut Schmidt, former Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuellar also addressed a message to the Council. The Council further heard a statement by Mr. Sradar Swaran Singh, special representative of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India and Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

3. Dr. Rudolf Kirchschläger, Federal President of the Republic of Austria honoured the InterAction Council by his presence at the opening meeting at which he conveyed the best wishes of the people of Austria for the success of this new endeavour which, for the first time in history, brings together at such a senior level political leaders from North and South and East and West in a common quest for action on critical issues affecting all countries. At a time of considerable international tension, the members of the Council, through their very presence, gave direct expression to the need for continuous, constructive communication and dialogue among the countries of the world.

4. During its session in Vienna the participants were also received by Mr. Erwin Lanc, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Austria, who on behalf of the Austrian Government, underlined the importance Austria attaches to the activities of the InterAction Council and expressed the Government's full support for the objectives and efforts of the Council.

5. In order to accomplish its objectives the InterAction Council will adopt an innovative approach setting in motion a political process to achieve concrete results. Once the Council has elaborated, with the support

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of a Policy Board and a Communications Committee, pertinent action proposals it will dispatch small missions composed of a few Council members to selected countries, at which time they will present the Council's proposals and suggestions for action to the political decision makers and other influential leaders. The Council will also make use of a variety of methods to identify its action proposals and to disseminate them.

6. The Council will reconvene periodically to review the results of its activities, in particular the missions, to decide about any supplementary action which might be required to advance further its earlier proposals and to select new areas for action.

7. Recognizing that world peace is being threatened from two fronts, one from the politico-military sphere and the other from the economic sphere, the InterAction Council agreed to attach high priority to three issues :

- a) the promotion of peace and disarmament ;
- b) the revitalization fo the world economy, particularly by way of lowering interest rates and dealing with the problems of external debt ;
- c) the strengthening of co-operation for development.

8. At the conclusion of the session, the InterAction Council adopted the following final statement :

I.

9. The InterAction Council of Former Heads of Government has had an intensive and frank exchange of views on a number of critical issues concerning peace and development. The questions of disarmament, of rising tensions in the world, and of the revitalization of the world's economy were considered at some length.

10. Members of the Council expressed their conviction that the world is now threatened by the most dangerous situation it has faced since the end of the Second World War.

11. The Council appeals to the world community to respect sovereignty and pluralism and to refrain from all forms of intervention in the affairs of other nations.

12. The members of the InterAction Council, particularly preoccupied with the potential dangers inherent in all kinds of armaments in Europe and other regions which endanger peace and security in the entire world, decided to appeal to the parties involved in arms control and reduction talks, particularly those currently being conducted in Geneva, to make every effort to reach effective agreement and, in the interest of humanity, to avoid a breakdown in these talks.

13. The appeal of the Council extends to all the nations of the world to halt the expansion of, and to initiate effective measures to reduce, the enormous stockpile of conventional and nuclear weapons, which now exist in virtually every region of the world.

14. The Council concluded that peace would be enormously strengthened if a situation could be achieved in which there were no medium - range missiles in Europe and in other parts of the world.
  
15. Members of the InterAction Council reviewed various centres of tension in the world and expressed their profound concern at the developments in the Middle East, in Asia, in Central America and the Caribbean, where small countries are involved in conflicts which reflect, and are exacerbated by, the interests of distant powers.
  
16. Peace in these and other parts of the world can be restored only if justice, freedom and human rights prevail. In that context, members of the InterAction Council deplored also the despicable system of apartheid as a continuous source of tension and injustice.
  
17. The Council considers it particularly important that the export of weapons and armaments be controlled, particularly those destined to developing countries. While benefiting the economies of the exporting countries, these exports <sup>may</sup> threaten the security of the receiving countries and directly or indirectly inhibit their economic development and social progress.
  
18. To avoid global tragedy, which could be triggered by minor and accidental incidents, the Council agreed upon the necessity for effective measures and strengthened communication at the highest political levels to diminish the risks.

19. The InterAction Council requests its Executive Committee to take those measures it deems necessary and appropriate which might help ease tensions, and to involve all members of the Council in such activities.

II.

20. The participants in the meeting unanimously recognized that world peace is also threatened by another front, namely from economic problems. Many of the countries of the world are facing recession with diminished productive activities, reduced investments and unemployment. Developing countries are in a position of unprecedented difficulty.

21. The Council considers that the revitalization of the world economy is seriously restrained by the effects of the current high levels of real interest rates which are, in turn, the result to a considerable extent of continuing and substantial public sector deficits in some major developed countries. The Council therefore calls on those developed countries which play a predominant role in world economic affairs to concert their economic and monetary policies and to reduce their deficits so as to reduce the current high levels of interest rates and to improve the stability and alignment of exchange rates.

22. The InterAction Council expressed serious concern at the position of developing countries whose international debt has grown significantly in recent years. The burden of debt is causing very serious problems for many developing countries and under present circumstances, the possibility of default is imminent. If the major debtor countries from the developing world did default, it would have major implications for the international financial and banking systems. Such a



development could lead to a breakdown as serious as that which occurred in the 1930s. The InterAction Council draws attention to the fact that the Charter of the International Monetary Fund, inadequate access to markets, adverse movements in the terms of trade and continuation of the developed countries' deficits have contributed to this situation. The structural imbalances which underlie this situation need most urgent attention.

23. The InterAction Council therefore intends to propose short, medium and long-term measures to resolve the problem of developing country debt.

- a) The Council calls for urgent measures to meet the immediate debt problems of developing debtor nations through such measures as, inter alia, a short term moratorium, <sup>where necessary</sup> the reduction of effective interest rates, rearranged payments schedules and cancellation of debt in whole or in part;
- (b) In addition, the Council calls for an urgent increase in the resources of the International Monetary Fund and more appropriate IMF conditionality. IMF conditionality must be more sensitive to the social and political situation and development strategies of the developing countries.
- (c) The period of grace which would be achieved through the adoption of the above measures should be used to promote the convening of a major international monetary conference, not later than 1984, to examine and propose constructive means in relation to :
  - 1) a shift of attention from crisis management, which treats the symptoms of economic crisis to a more integrated approach which must be part of the long restructuring of the pattern of international economic relations ; And
  - ii) the interrelated issues of trade and access to markets, the debt of developing countries, the internal deficits of the industrial nations and the stabilisation of exchange rates between major economic groupings.

24. The Council noted that proposals to free trade often failed because of opposition by one or several countries. Therefore the Council intends to give priority attention to a new code against protectionism covering industrial goods, agricultural goods and services, the combination of which is not adequately covered by existing arrangements. The code would be open to interested nations and would be designed to encourage co-operation among those nations that are prepared to freer trade and to remove the right of veto of major powers as has existed in the past MTN negotiations.

25. The council intends to act specifically to promote the accelerated development of the developing countries. It intends to propose and promote, through missions, consultations, public relations activities, etc., specific measures to increase and sustain the flows of financial resources to developing countries through both public and private channels. This will require sustained efforts by the Council to increase public awareness in some key developed countries of the seriousness and urgency of development problems and of the essential common interests of developing and developed countries, as well as increased transfer of technology. The Council will also pay particular attention to the very serious world population problem.

26. The Council decided, in view of the vital importance of official development assistance to the least developed countries which most severely suffer from poverty, hunger and natural disasters, to undertake consultations with donor governments aimed at encouraging a rapid increase in concessional assistance to these countries, together with other measures to increase their earnings and widen their sources of finance.

27. The Council decided to undertake after further preparation a series of broadly based consultations in developing and developed countries to gradually define, and gain support for a major long-term programme of increased development co-operation. This programme, reflecting the realities of the eighties, would require the full participation of developing and developed countries, in a coherent and sustained effort over at least ten years, to promote self-sustaining economic growth in the developing countries, respecting their particular needs and objectives, and thus enabling them to participate positively in the revitalisation of the world economy as a whole.

### III. -

28. The Council reaffirmed its conviction that the United Nations Organization has a critically important role to play in the examination and solution of the major issues confronting humanity-disarmament, peace and world development.