

Statement Delivered  
By  
Denis G. Antoine Ambassador Permanent Representative of Grenada  
As Head of Delegation at the Special Conference on Security  
October 26-29, 2003 In Mexico City

His Excellency Dr Louis Ernesto Derbez  
Secretary of External Relations of Mexico  
Mr Secretary General  
Heads of Delegations  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr Chairman, I wish to express my congratulations to you on your election as chair of this very significant meeting. I also bring you greetings from the Prime Minister of Grenada Dr the Honourable Keith Mitchell and also our Minister of Foreign affairs.

Mr Chairman I have taken note that most delegations before me made reference to the Bridgetown declaration when they spoke. And it is clear that the Bridgetown Declaration resonates in the Declaration on Security in the Americas which we would adopt today.

After review of the declaration I have found that more than seventeen times member states have reaffirmed themselves to shared principles and commitments. Such reaffirmation speaks well for continuity and trust needed in our hemispheric partnership.

To have arrived at consensus on such declaration is also a signal that we believe that our hemisphere is at risk, and our collective response is required to avert any loss in the gains made toward maintaining a secure hemisphere.

Mr Chairman the work being undertaken by the Government of Grenada in cooperation with the Association of Caribbean commissioners of police to establish an integrated information system in an area in which Grenada seeks to continue global and regional partnerships as part of the shared responsibility in our security process.

The delegation of Grenada believes that sharing and exchange of information at the bilateral and multilateral levels will go a long way to assist small states in strengthening their capacity to address their special security concerns.

It is in this regard that my delegation welcomes the call expressed in article 8 of the declaration for renewed and on going attention to and the development of appropriate instruments and strategies to address the special security concerns of small states.

Mr chairman the delegation of Grenada celebrates the declaration which we are about endorse as yet another trend setting example of multilateral cooperation in which we have identified the enemies of democracy and freedom, our next step is to close ranks to ensure the security of all nations in our hemisphere.

Mr Chairman the degree to which our hemisphere remains secure will also ensure our success in the fight against poverty and prosperity of our hemisphere.

As we anticipate the a free trade area of the Americas effective security should in no way restrict the movement

of peoples in the same way as we anticipate the free movement of goods and services.

Mr chairman this hemisphere has proven again after the stellar work on the inter American democratic charter that our shared values common aspirations and institutional frameworks the peoples of this hemisphere could live in an environment where respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms good governance, peace and true social equity would prevail.

Mr chairman in closing I reiterate that the declaration which we are about to publish is already being hailed as a landmark document and well balanced, let us together abide by the recommendations as expressed in article 43 of that document and commit to achieving the application evaluation and follow up on a work which contains a very valuable assessment of our security needs.

I thank you