

procal Assistance), under which the signatories agree that an armed attack against one American state is an attack against all, was of little use in settling this conflict, since the Council of the OAS was unable to decide whether the Dominican invasion was an internal affair or international in character. The majority of the Council decided that only the Foreign Ministers of the American republics could deal adequately with this delicate issue with any hope of stabilizing the whole Caribbean area. A Meeting of Consultation was accordingly called.

Fifth Meeting of Consultation

The Agenda for the meeting read as follows:

1. For the purpose of maintaining peace in the Americas, consideration of the situation of international tension in the Caribbean area in its general and several aspects, in the light of the principles and standards that govern the inter-American system, and of means to assure the observance by states of the principles of non-intervention and non-aggression.
2. Effective exercise of representative democracy and respect for human rights, including:
 - a) doctrinal study, taking into account the strict maintenance of the principle of non-intervention, of the possible juridical relation between the effective respect for human rights and the exercise of representative democracy, and the right to set in motion the machinery provided by American positive international law;
 - b) procedure that will make it possible to measure compliance with two fundamental principles of American international law: the effective exercise of representative democracy and respect for human rights; and measures that should be taken in cases of noncompliance with those principles.

President Jorge Alessandri of Chile inaugurated the meeting on August 12. In his address, he urged the American republics to seek peaceful settlements of disputes and to strengthen the inter-American system, since it is imperative that peace, freedom and law prevail throughout the Western Hemisphere. Touching on a theme that was reiterated by the majority of the American Foreign Ministers in their speeches, President Alessandri referred to non-intervention as a fundamental principle of the American states, remarking that: "What is at stake is the very basis of our American institutions. Intervention is a plot against liberty, and we can never accept any relaxation of the principle of non-intervention".

United States Secretary of State Christian A. Herter then outlined the four principles of the OAS Charter which he considered were particularly pertinent to the situation facing the Organization in the Caribbean. The first two were the principles of non-intervention and collective security, which he described as forming the basis for peace and independence on this continent. The last two were the principle of the effective exercise of representative democracy and respect for human rights, and the principle of co-operation for economic and social progress. Mr. Herter observed: "Our problem today is to restore the traditional balance between peace on the one hand, and freedom and progress on the other, by giving a proper emphasis to each of these four outstanding principles".