

PRESENT MEMBERS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION, AND WE ASK THE SAME QUESTIONS BEING ASKED BY MEMBER COUNTRIES AS TO WHAT SORT OF HEMISPHERIC ORGANIZATION WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE TO THE PRESENT AND TO THE FUTURE. WE HEAR MANY VOICES WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION'S MEMBERSHIP SUGGESTING THAT THE ORGANIZATION SHOULD BE CHANGED IN SOME FUNDAMENTAL RESPECTS BUT WE HEAR VERY LITTLE AGREEMENT AS TO WHAT THOSE CHANGES SHOULD BE OR HOW THEY SHOULD BE BROUGHT ABOUT.

THE 1985 CARTAGENA PROTOCOL, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WHICH SECRETARY GENERAL BAENA SOARES RECENTLY DECLARED WAS ESSENTIAL TO THE "REVITALIZATION OF THE ORGANIZATION", STILL REMAINS UNRATIFIED BY SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION , LEADING THE SECRETARY GENERAL PUBLICLY TO EXPRESS HIS "DISENCHANTMENT BY THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE PROTOCOL'S ENTHUSIASTIC APPROVAL IN 1985 AND THE LENGTHY PROCESS OF ITS RATIFICATION".

FURTHERMORE, WE CANNOT HELP BUT NOTICE THAT THE ORGANIZATION SEEMS NOW ALMOST PARALYZED INTO INACTIVITY BECAUSE ALL OF ITS MEMBERS EXCEPT TWO AS FAR AS I CURRENTLY KNOW - TINY DOMINICA AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - HAVE FAILED TO MEET ALL OF THEIR FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS TO THE ORGANIZATION AND MOST HAVE QUOTA PAYMENTS SUBSTANTIALLY IN ARREARS. ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF