



7th ANNUAL MEETING
ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

Sixth Plenary Session

Thursday, January 12, 1999 (9:00 h - 12:00 h)

Hon. Oswaldo Sandoval, Chairman of the 7th Annual Meeting of the APPF:

Good Morning. Good morning ladies and gentlemen,

The meeting is called to order.

This morning you should have received a draft of the Joint Communiqué.

The Draft of the Joint Communiqué has been prepared by the Drafting Committee last night. It reflects the issues that have been discussed and decisions that have been arrived to. It includes two annexes: Annex 1 is the list of the participating delegates, and Annex 2 is about the 13 resolutions that were approved during the process.

I would like to ask you to kindly review Annex 1, which includes the list of the participants, for any possible mistake, either in spelling of the names, titles, or order in which the names have been listed. Should you find any discrepancy, kindly feel free to just take out the page with the change, make a little signature on the side, and deliver it to one of the ladies on the floor, so that the final document reflects, in a precise way, the names, order and titles of the participants.

With reference to the Joint Communiqué, I would like to tell you that the Chair will, in a couple of minutes, open the floor for discussion on this Draft in order to approve it with the corrections that may be deemed necessary. Hopefully there will not be too many, considering that all the members of the Executive Committee have reviewed it, as well as those delegations that are not necessarily members of the Executive Committee, but that were kind enough to contribute to the writing of the Joint Communiqué.

With regard to this document, once it is approved, after the changes that could take place, there will be a very, very brief recess during which we will ask you to remain where you are, while the changes take place and the original comes out.

It will be at that time that we will have a signing ceremony in which we will ask, please, all delegates to be present, because we are going to call each delegation, one by one, to please come forward. The head of the delegation will sit down to sign the Joint Communiqué, and the members of the delegation will stand on the side in order to have pictures taken.

For that, I urge that all delegations please be present. I think it will be a nice picture for you to take home. Please be present.

Further, I would like to make some announcements, and I will make them at the beginning so that people can start making their plans.

After the signing of the Joint Communiqué, all the heads of the delegations will be invited to come up to the table which, as you may have noticed, is slightly different than yesterday and the day before. That has been done to accommodate the Head of Delegation from each one of the Delegations.

Should the Head of Delegation of any one of the groups have departed, a member of the delegation is welcome to come up and sit here with us, because we will have a press conference at that point. The press has been asked to be here. Actually, according to the program, the press has been asked to be here at 11:30. However, they are being called on the phone now and hopefully they will come at 11:00 because we expect that by 11:00 we will have finished the joint communiqué process including the signing ceremony and we should be ready to start with the press conference.

We have advanced it half an hour in order to give you a little bit of time to possibly change to go to the luncheon. The luncheon will take place in a club, which is about 45 minutes to an hour from where we are now. And this is a place, I do not know how to name it, it is a club, actually, of the people who raise walking horses. So, it is sort of a rural place, so you are welcome not to wear a jacket, and definitely not to wear a tie. You will feel more comfortable that way. If you have sunglasses, you should probably take them, because, hopefully, it will be very nice.

The luncheon, as it is customary in Peru, will probably take around three to four hours, because we will have first a small cocktail, then there will be the luncheon with some music and dances, and afterwards, we will have a demonstration of the walking horses.

I am advising you of this so that you do not make plans that would take place too early, such that you are able to enjoy the luncheon throughout. Obviously, should anyone wish to come back earlier, please do say so at the registration desk to arrange transportation for those who may wish to come back earlier. Should you not advise you of your wish to come back earlier, there may not be a way of transportation from there. So, please, I urge you to let us know in advance if you require a different type of transportation than the rest.

The heads of the delegations or, rather, the secretaries of the delegations, or in any case one member of the delegation should have received the proceedings of yesterday's meetings today. If any delegation does not have it, please request it. Because we need that you review it, as you kindly did yesterday. And yesterday we noted a few mistakes which have been already recorded because of your kindness in reviewing it. Obviously it is much easier for the person who spoke to review his own speech. And this makes it easier for the Secretariat, of course, to make the changes that may be necessary.

I also want to tell you that the proceedings are already in the Internet today. So, you do not need to take this home with you. It is heavy. Instead of that, you may take some souvenirs, you know, buy something in Peru. We need people to buy things. So, instead of this, just buy souvenirs or whatever you wish and you will have this available at home through the Internet, hopefully with the changes that you may let us know about.

Furthermore, you may have on your desk the cassette of the Congress. This is a cassette that comes out every week. This is the way in which the Congress, that is, the newspaper of the Congress, lets the people know what the Congress is doing. I am pleased to tell you that this week's cassette is entirely dedicated to the APPF. If you look at the center, there is a picture of all of the delegations.

OK. We will continue with the discussion about the joint communiqué. I would suggest, if you agree with me, that in order to be efficient and expeditious, we will go point by point, and we try to record your proposed changes, hopefully not too many, as I said, and then we will approve it point by point as every body expresses their opinions.

With regard to the heading, does anyone have any position? I do not know, maybe there is a misspelled word, or something. Is there any problem with the heading? I will presume there is not.

Item 1 of the Joint Communiqué. Does anybody have an opinion on Item 1? Not being any position on Item 1 of the Joint Communiqué, it stands approved.

Item 2 of the Joint Communiqué. Is there any proposed change in Item 2 of the Joint Communiqué?

Not being any expression of desire to make any amendments as the Chair can verify, Item 2 of the Joint Communiqué stands approved.

Item 3.

Korea and Indonesia may have the floor.

Korean Delegation:

Mr. Chairman, there seems to be some mistake in the Resolution text of the Joint Communiqué. It is our understanding that in Resolution 11 which was submitted by the Philippines Delegation, the fifth paragraph that starts with the word "believing" is supposed to be deleted. And there was some reference about the corruption in the government of Korea, that was supposed to be deleted.

Chairman:

Yes, there seems to be a mistake. Nobody is in disagreement with this. Right? Everybody recalls that in fact this was deleted. We apologize. Obviously, it must have been a secretarial mistake. On this issue, China may have the floor.

Chinese Delegation:

We have expressed our reservation on the Resolution on the Missile Proliferation proposed by the Japanese Delegation.

Chairman:

Excuse me, If I may, I would like to deal with the situation stated by Korea first, before we go into another issue. So, just to make it clear, the Korean Delegate has expressed that Resolution 11 has a mistake, and if I may agree with him, it had been agreed to delete the fifth paragraph, and in the copy has not been so.

So, there is no one that is in objection with that. Correct? Then Resolution 11, will be amended to show the fifth paragraph that starts with "believing" has been deleted. The original copy will reflect this amendment. On another issue. Yes, OK. China.

Chinese Delegation:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, because during the intervention by our leader of the Chinese Delegation, we expressed reservation on the Resolution 4 and also that reservation was taken note of by the Chairman. So we would like to further footnote that the Chinese Delegation does not accept every aspect of the Resolution as the language used in the previous occasions. Thank you, Mr. President.

Chairman:

Would you like that stated in the Resolution itself?

OK. Would you give us some wording for that, if you would? Please.

Chinese Delegation:

Yes, the footnote would say that the Chinese Delegation does not accept every aspect of the Resolution.

Chairman:

Let me write that down, please.

Should we say: "Does not necessarily accept"?

Chinese Delegation:

Because it is the past practice by this forum, as some of the delegations did at the previous General Assembly and so on.

Chairman:

OK. It is your right. The Chinese Delegation does not accept every aspect of the Resolution.

Chinese Delegation:

In other words, we express our reservation in certain parts of the resolution.

Chairman:

OK. So, Resolution 4 will show in a footnote that the Chinese Delegation does not accept every aspect of the Resolution. I would presume no-one in this agreement with the right of China to express that point.

Japan, on that issue? Or is there a new one? On that issue? OK.

Japanese Delegation:

Mr. Chairman, only to clarify that this footnote is not to be placed on page 2, but on Resolution No. 4, just at the end of that resolution. Annexed, is that true?

Chairman:

Yes, it will be in the resolution itself, not in the communiqué, I understood that correctly, it is in the resolution. Yes, that is clear to the Chair.

Japanese Delegation:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman:

You are welcome.

With regard to point 2, anyone else wishes to make a statement?

OK. So, point 2 which includes the listing of all the resolutions attached as Annex 2 is then hereby approved with the amendments established by Korea and China.

The United States.

American Delegation:

We also ask for an asterisk on the resolution on small arms, Resolution 13.

Chairman:

Yes and the Chairman recalls Congressman Houghton making a reference to that. I would presume you wish the same wording.

American Delegation:

That is correct.

Chairman:

O.K.

It is noted that we are making an amendment to Resolution 13 on small arms adding a footnote which says that the United States Delegation does not accept every aspect of this resolution.

American Delegation:

Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

Chairman:

You are welcome.

The Philippines.

Philippines Delegation:

Thank you. Mr. Chairman. On Resolution No. 10, fourth paragraph, the word "legal" was changed to "international standards", therefore to "international".

Chairman:

Could you repeat please?

Philippine Delegation:

Fourth paragraph: "comparable legal standards", "legal" should be "international". That was changed last time. The heading showed "international standards".

Chairman:

Yes, you are most correct. It was changed in the title, as you may recall, but it has definitely not been changed here.

So the record will show that Resolution 10, in the 5th paragraph that starts with "Calls", the word "legal" needs to be changed by "international" to reflect the changes that were made during the discussion of the resolution and to confirm the title.

OK. So we go to point 3.

The Delegate of Australia.

Australian Delegation:

Just before we move to point 3, Mr. Chairman, there are 2 grammatical errors that ought to be corrected in the list of Resolutions. In the list where we have APPF 7th, Resolution 9, that is on page 3, we should have "Resolution calling upon the governments of the Asia-Pacific" not "Resolution on calling upon the governments". And on the next page Resolution 11 should read "Resolution " take the "on" out so it would be "Resolution", I beg your pardon, leave the "on" in, take the "to" out so it becomes "Resolution on exchanging information".

Chairman:

OK. Nobody disagrees with that?

Australian Delegation:

I am sorry, according to the delegations of Fiji, it would be even better if it was "Resolution on exchange of information".

Chairman:

OK. No disagreement with that?

Alright.

So in paragraph 2 the name of Resolution 9 and, obviously that would mean a change in the Resolution itself. Was the Resolution itself OK? In the title maybe there is the same mistake.

Australian Delegation:

I will check the Resolution on your advice, Mr. Chairman but my intention was simply to correct that error on that page.

Chairman:

Yes, same mistake. It says "resolution on calling" so the resolution itself should also be changed. Correct?

OK. The record will show that in paragraph 2 of the Joint Communiqué, Resolution 9 should be "Resolution calling upon the governments etc.", and also in the Resolution itself, in the title we have made the same change.

Please bear with me.

Then Resolution 11 should read: "Resolution on exchange of information" Am I correct? "on the exchange of information"

Australian Delegation:

I think it would be appropriate if it was "Resolution on the exchange of information".

Chairman:

OK. Nobody is in disagreement? Resolution 11 then should read "Resolution on the exchange of information" and we should make the same change in the Resolution itself.

Can we now go to item 3? Is everybody ready? Item 3, please. Any remarks?

With no remarks on Item 3, it is hereby approved.

Item 4. With no remarks on Item 4, it stands approved.

Paragraph 5. With no remarks on Paragraph 5, it stands approved.

Paragraph 6. With no proposals of change, Paragraph 6 stands approved.

Paragraph 7. Stands approved.

Paragraph 8. The United States may have the floor.

American Delegation:

Mr. Chairman, I think the last sentence in 8 is a little bit unclear, and would suggest amending that final sentence to read something to the effect of "the meeting also urged reforms in the IMF and the financial sectors of affected economies to better enable the international financial system to avoid crises in the future".

Chairman:

Mr. Bob, I beg your pardon Sir, could you please kindly repeat what you just said? I was not paying attention.

American Delegation:

I think the last sentence in point 8 is a little bit unclear as to what we are trying to say. And, if I may just suggest a slightly revised sentence, something to the effect of "the meeting also urged reforming the IMF and the financial sectors of affected economies to better enable the international financial system to avoid future crises".

Chairman:

Thank you. Australia may have the floor.

Australian Delegation:

With great respect to my American friends, the English would never approve of either of our sense of the English, but I wonder if we should simply say: "the meeting also urged the reforming of the IMF and the financial sectors of the affected economies" and then pick up the last few words you had used: "to avoid future crises". Or something like that, I did not write them down.

American Delegation:

I think that is an improvement.

Chairman:

Could I ask the Delegate from Australia to please write that down and send it over to the Chair.?

Australian Delegation:

Can I with your permission do it in consultation with the Americans to ensure that what we are doing is what they want and bring it to you.?

Chairman:

Please, we will hold for a minute to wait for that, because we would very much like you to continue helping us with the remaining text.

While we wait for this consultation, I would like to tell you that yesterday, many of us visited the Congress while the Congress was in session. You may recall that. And the Congress, in the Plenary Session, was nice enough to recognize the presence of the delegates.

At this moment, the Secretary General of the Congress, who is the highest official of the Congress, elected by all the members of the Congress, who is presently here, please stand up, Pepe, we will recognize him.

He has been kind enough to bring personally a Resolution that was approved yesterday while we were present there, which has been translated into English and which I would like to have read, so that everybody knows about it.

I need a volunteer who can speak English better than I can, to please read it out loud for me. Could I engage Peter to do it for me, please? You have it, ok. You can do the English version, please.

Australian Delegate:

The Congress of the Republic, during the Plenary Session that was held today, unanimously adopted the following motion:

The undersigning Congressmen,

Whereas the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum is an inter-parliamentary institution formed by the free association of National Parliaments of the Asia-Pacific Region, the objective of which is to serve as a scenario for the matters of common interest, allowing to strengthen development policies in the member countries;

Whereas the main objectives of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum are to identify the matters of common interest for the member countries within a global context, to deepen the understanding of political matters, to exchange experiences, analyze political, social and cultural aspects derived from the economic growth and integration and, finally, to foster and promote regional cooperation stressing the role to be performed by national parliaments regarding the encouragement of the understanding of the importance to work towards peace, freedom, democracy, prosperity and security, within the regional scope of the Asia-Pacific;

Whereas on January the 11th to the 14th of this year, Lima is holding the 7th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum, where substantial matters for the strengthening and progressive regional consolidation are being addressed, such as the economic situation of the member countries; the international and regional cooperation in order to overcome the economic crisis; security of the region, environment and weather changes, fighting against drug trafficking and terrorism; cooperation in the promotion of a culture of peace and the artistic and cultural dissemination in general; as well as the consolidation of the Asia-Pacific Information Network, based on the development of the APOINT 2001 Plan, that is, the Asia-Pacific Open Information Network Technology Plan;

Whereas Peru has deserved the honor to develop together with the cooperation of the member countries the APOINT 2001 Plan, for having obtained during the holding of the 6th Annual Meeting in Seoul in January 1998, the Chairmanship of the Technological Working Committee of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum, entrusted to Congressman Oswaldo Sandoval, who also is responsible for conducting the Annual Meeting being held in our country, allowing to consolidate even more the Regional Inter-Parliamentary Forum, of the Asia-Pacific, committing the support of the Congress of the Republic of Peru to the constant effort to attain the outlined objectives; and

Whereas the Congress of the Republic of Peru is pleased to receive in the country and in the Congressional Palace the honorable representatives of the member countries of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum, and among them its honorable President, Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone.

The Congress of the Republic of Peru hereby agrees as follows:

First, to welcome the holding of the 7th Annual Meeting of the Asia-

Pacific Parliamentary Forum being held in the city of Lima on January 11 to 14 of this year,

Second, to welcome the visit of the honorable representatives of the member countries of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum through its Honorable President, Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone; and

Thirdly, to ratify the commitment to continue to support the efforts of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum in all its activities and especially through the APOINT 2001 Plan, the "Asia-Pacific Open Information Network Technology" plan.

Fourthly, to congratulate the participating members for the conduct of the 7th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum, and especially to congressman Oswaldo Sandoval and the Peruvian Delegation who are making it possible that this important meeting fulfill the objectives outlined.

It is signed, I think, by many congressmen of the Republic of Peru. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman:

Thank you.

This resolution was adopted unanimously yesterday afternoon, and it is hereby given to Mr. Nakasone for its distribution to the membership. Mr. Nakasone, the President of the Congress has asked me to give this to you personally.

Thank you very much. May I now have the final wording, please.

Australian Delegation:

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the American friends I would like to point out that they suggested the last sentence of the paragraph 8 read: "the meeting also urged reforming of the IMF and the financial sectors of the affected economies to avoid future crises." I will read it again if you wish, Mr. Chairman: "The meeting also urged reforming of the IMF and of the financial sectors of the affected economies to avoid future crises."

Chairman:

Ok. Is anybody in disagreement with this change?

I will read it for the record.

The last sentence will read: "The meeting also urged, reforming of the IMF and of the financial sectors of the affected economies to avoid future crises." So, paragraph 8 is hereby modified as read and approved.

Paragraph 9, please. There being no objections to paragraph 9, it is hereby approved.

Paragraph 10. There being no objections to paragraph 10, it is hereby approved.

Paragraph 11. There being no objections to paragraph 11, it is hereby approved.

Paragraph 12.

Peru has the floor.

Peruvian Delegation:

Thank you, Mr. President, I wish to add in the second sentence, after the sentence "culture of peace", ".especially through education programs about the importance of dialog and consensus" and then continues the rest of the sentence, "included the peaceful solution to their conflicts".

Chairman:

Anybody disagrees with that?

I would guess, correct me if I am wrong, that the translation may be the following: "The meeting called for APPF Member Countries to take measures aimed at promoting a culture of peace, especially through educational programs and through dialog and consensus". Will that be a correct translation Peruvian Delegation? Is anybody in disagreement with that?

I will read it again. "The meeting called for APPF member countries to take measures aimed at promoting a culture of peace, especially through educational programs and through dialog and consensus and continues, including..., etc. If there is no disagreement with the modification, then, Paragraph 12 stands approved as modified.

Paragraph 13: With no disagreement, Paragraph 13 stands approved.

Paragraph 14: With no discrepancy, Paragraph 14 stands approved.

Paragraph 15: No objection to paragraph 15. It stands approved.

Paragraph 16: No discrepancies. It stands approved.

Paragraph 17: No discrepancies It stands approved.

Paragraph 18: No discrepancies. It stands approved.

Paragraph 19: It stands approved.

Paragraph 20: It stands approved.

Paragraph 21:

Australian Delegation:

Mr. Chairman, I note the reference in paragraph 21 to North East Asia. And I would have thought the reference is more properly North Asia.

Chairman:

Could you repeat that, please?

Australian Delegation:

I note the reference in paragraph 21 to North East Asia. Is that appropriate? Australia is quite happy about it but in the original draft it was listed as North Asia.

Chairman:

The reason why it says North East Asia is because if you go back to the last resolution of the Executive Committee, when we approved that resolution, in the different regions, that area is shown as North East Asia, exactly the same as it is shown in the

Australian Delegation:

Sorry, Sir.

Chairman:

Yes, China?

Chinese Delegation:

Mr. Chairman, with reference to paragraph 20, there is no Annex 3 attached, and we believe that, actually, the same occurs with the final resolution 14. Is that right?

Chairman:

So, the last resolution should be the Appendix 3. Is that what you are saying? Yes, I think you are right.

Yes, that was very correctly pointed out by the Chinese Delegation. The last resolution, which consists of the amendment of the APPF rules, should be considered Annex 3 instead of a resolution of Annex 2. I presume there is no disagreement with that.

OK, thank you very much. So, paragraph 21?

Mongolia has the floor.

Mongolian Delegation:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

According to the rules of the Executive Committee, we understand that the Fourth Conference of the Executive Committee Meeting and the Annual Meeting should have a seat in the Executive Committee. Therefore, should we not include Australia in the list of new members because it is not in this list.

Chairman:

Well, I believe that is not the case, because this Executive Committee is for a two-year term. In fact, the rules calls for the next host to become member of the Executive Committee but that is already in the bylaws and since Australia has been appointed as the site for the next meeting, thus, they automatically become members of the Executive Committee. But if we place it as member of the Executive Committee under the same right given to those elected, that would mean that they would be members of the Executive Committee for 2 years. And that is not the intention. The intention is that they are members only for the year prior to that in which they host the plenary session. Australia?

Australian Delegation:

Mr. Chairman, the Australians are grateful to the Mongolians for their consideration but we agree with your ruling.

Chairman:

Is the Australian delegation satisfied with the explanation? I mean, the Mongolian Delegation, sorry.

Mongolian Delegation:

I suggest that we include that point in the paragraph 22, to mention that Australia does not wish to be included in the Executive Committee in this term.

Chairman:

Or maybe to satisfy the point brought up by the Mongolian Delegation, maybe in 21, we can make a note expressing that Australia being the next seat for the Annual Meeting, Australia, worded properly, will be a member of the Executive Committee for the following year. Something of that nature. Is there any support for that? Yes, Japan?

Japanese Delegation:

Yes, perhaps we can suggest in paragraph 21, Point 5 would mention that Australia is the host country.

Chairman:

Repeat, please, the last part.

Japanese Delegation:

Yes, therefore in paragraph 21 there are 4 sub-regions mentioned starting from a black point. Therefore, we may add a fifth black point saying "the host country" and name "Australia". For the sixth line of paragraph 21.

Chairman:

I think that would be very proper. Would Mongolia be satisfied with that?

O.K. Mongolia is satisfied, Australia is satisfied, Indonesia is satisfied.

O.K. Thank you, Mr. Kakisawa.

So the record will show that we are adding in paragraph 21, a last line that will say "host country: Australia".

Yes, Philippines, on this issue?

Philippine Delegation:

Can we just remove the word "the" before the Philippines and Vietnam for consistency?

Chairman:

Oh, yes, so we take out "the", just Philippines.

Philippine Delegation:

Yes, Philippines for consistency.

Chairman:

O.K. Yes, Chile on paragraph 21? Are going to address paragraph 21?

Chilean Delegation:

Yes, Chair, we would like to offer our country as the seat for this Forum for the year 2002. And also taking into account that talking with Mexico we have sub-divided our period of participation in the Executive Committee, so I want to mention it right now, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman:

I guess we will go into this on paragraph 22 which is precisely the seat of the next meeting.

The Chilean Delegation, referring to paragraph 22, is expressing its desire to be the seat of the Annual Meeting of the year following Australia, if I am correct, Chile?

Chilean Delegation:

It could be the year 2001, 2002, depending on the system that is approved.

Chairman:

The Delegate of Chile has expressed himself. Is there any comment?

Canada asks for the floor or Japan?

Japanese Delegation:

Thank you very much. We are very pleased with this invitation of Chile as a host country in the future. We cannot decide yet in this meeting the precise year, but it would be better to mention it in paragraph 22.

Chairman:

Would there be agreement if we add, in paragraph 22 to note that both the Indonesian and the Chilean Delegations extended an invitation to host a future Annual Meeting? and we cross out Jakarta because it would be sufficient to say Indonesia and Chile, so as to make it more properly worded.

Would there be an agreement? We do not express dates, of course. Yes, Indonesia.

Indonesian Delegation:

Mr. Chairman, I think every decision should be made by this sub-region of APPF.

Indonesia extended this invitation through ASEAN member countries and they supported the Indonesia invitation. Here Chile expresses itself in this Forum and I do not know whether they have decided this together in the region of South America, for example. I do not know that. But Indonesia is

strictly supported by ASEAN. And the chief delegates of the Philippines convey to this meeting, the applause of ASEAN countries to Indonesia's invitation, Mr. Chairman.

So I think we should not add this, because otherwise any delegate will propose an invitation so we would have to include all these things in this paragraph 22. I think paragraph 22 is very proper already, Mr. Chairman, thank you very much.

Chairman:

The Chair wishes to clarify that the fact that the Chilean Delegation wishes to have their name included as a future site, does not diminish both the right and the desire of the Indonesian Delegation to also be included as a future site. The paragraph will not refer to any specific year and obviously, it will be the decision of the next General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, which will decide where the following site will be. At this stage, all what the Chilean Delegation wishes, is to just reflect an invitation, just the same as Indonesia is reflecting an invitation. And with regards to the backing that the Indonesian Delegation has from their region, I have been advised by the Chilean Delegation that they also have the backing of the Latin-American group. So there should be no discrepancy there unless, obviously, the Assembly thinks otherwise. Peru?

Peruvian Delegation:

Mr. Chairman, we agree on what you have just said. I would like to make it clear that we also back the Chilean decision and that does not mean that we do not back also the Indonesian Delegation. I think it is a question just on future dates. That is all. Thank You.

Chairman:

Mexico?

Mexican Delegation:

Thank you Mr. Chairman, in addition to what was said by the delegate who preceded me on the floor, I only want to mention that obviously our sister Republic of Chile our back up to be the venue of the future meeting of this Forum, and I would like to tell you that if you withdraw the suggestions by both the Indonesian and the Chilean Delegations, it would seem that they made the same timing for the same dates. Perhaps if you left it without the word "both", perhaps then we will read "and the Indonesian and Chilean delegations extended invitations". Since they have no dates whatsoever, taking off "both" and without Jakarta. That will be all.

Chairman:

Can I read what the wording might be and see if you agree: "Australia was confirmed as the host for the 8th Annual Meeting of the APPF in January 2000.

Delegate:

Mr. Chairman...

Chairman:

May I finish reading and then I would be happy to answer to you.

Delegate:

Yes

Chairman:

"The Indonesian and Chilean Delegations extended an invitation to host a future Annual Meeting."

Is there any disagreement with this wording? Indonesia?

Indonesian Delegation:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to make it very clear here. When we extended the invitation, we knew that the United States would become the next host. We knew, but I do not know, because the United States Delegation here has not confirm anything, but around in the Assembly we knew that the United States would become the next host. That is why we extended our invitation by saying 2001 in Jakarta. I put that, Mr. Chairman, exactly in my speech, very formal. Then, after that, I heard that the President of APPF, Mr. Nakasone said, that the United States would become the next host but, in January 2001 in the Unites States there will be another Elections, it could happen that they are not able to do that. So now Chile steps forward to invite us, Chile in the future will become another host. If that is the case, Mr. Chairman, I would like to subject and then when we put Indonesia and the next year Chile and then we will agree upon it. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman:

The United States.

American Delegation:

It is the intention of the United States to explore the possibility of hosting a future APPF Conference, but we cannot commit to any year at this time, so I think we should just leave it like that, as far as the United States is concerned, but we do intend to explore the possibility of hosting this group, in a future year. Thank you.

Chairman:

I would like to point out that this Assembly is not, I repeat, is not intending to set up dates further from the date it has already approved of the Australian hosting for the year 2000. Further, the Chair has suggested to the Assembly that the wording mentions Indonesia first, and Chile second, as expressing invitations to host a future Annual Meeting, so the Chair wishes to convey to the Indonesian delegation that this new wording in no way is precluding the express desire of the Indonesian delegation to kindly offer the invitation it has offered. It is just that it wishes also to accommodate other distinguished delegates, who, of course also have the right, in the future to be a host of an Assembly. So, I would like to read once again the paragraph and then I will ask if anybody is in disagreement. Paragraph 22 would say: "Australia was confirmed as the host for the 8th Annual Meeting of the APPF in January 2000. The Indonesian and Chilean delegations extended invitations to host a future annual meeting." Is anybody in disagreement with that? Indonesia.

Indonesian Delegation:

Mr. Chairman, under the spirit of APPF, everything taken by consensus, I one hundred per cent agree with you. Thank you very much.

Chairman:

The Chair wishes to thank the Indonesian delegation. So, with those amendments, paragraph 22 is hereby approved.

Paragraph 23: Any comments on paragraph 23?

OK. There is agreement on paragraph 23, so paragraph 23 is hereby approved.

Paragraph 24: There being no disagreement with paragraph 24, it is hereby approved.

Once again, if you have any discrepancies with Annex 1, please, this may be the time for you to make the corrections. Take the page out and deliver it to the ladies in the floor for the corrections to be considered. Is there anything else regarding the Joint Communiqué, that any delegate wishes to express at this time? So, if there should be no further comment on the Joint Communiqué, then the Joint Communiqué of the 7th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum is hereby approved with the amendments that have been stated and that are shown on the records. The document is being modified now so we will make a brief recess, we will ask you to please remain where you are because I will presume that with the efficiency of the Secretariat and I hope you agree with that, we should have the document with us in a very short while and we will have the signing ceremony. So let us recess.

Chairman:

Ladies and gentlemen. The meeting will now come to order. As expressed, prior to the recess, the Chairman wishes to invite the delegations to sign the Joint Communiqué of the 7th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum.

First, I wish to invite Mr. Yashuhiro Nakasone, President of the APPF to place his signature.

Now, I would like to call one by one, the delegations of each one of the countries that have been represented in the meeting. I invite all the delegates to, please, come up. I will invite the head of the delegation to sit down to sign the Joint Communiqué and I kindly invite the members of the delegations to stand beside the President of the Delegation in order to have a group picture.

Would the Delegation of Australia, please, come up and sign the Joint Communiqué?

Would the Delegation of Brunei Darussalam, observers of the conference, be kind enough to come up to sign the Joint Communiqué?

The Delegation of Canada is invited to sign the joint communiqué.

The Delegation of China is invited to sign the Joint Communiqué. China please.

The Delegation of Chile is invited to sign the Joint Communiqué.

The Delegation of Fiji is invited to sign the Joint Communiqué.

The Delegation of Indonesia is invited to sign the Joint Communiqué.

The Delegation of Japan.

The Delegation of Korea.

The Delegation of Laos.

The Delegation of Mexico.

The Delegation of Micronesia.

The Delegation of Mongolia.

The Delegation of New Zealand.

The Delegation of Papua New Guinea.

The Delegation of Peru.

The Delegation of Philippines.

The Delegation of Russia.

The Delegation of Singapore.

The Delegation of Thailand.

The Delegation of the United States of America.

And last but not least, the Vietnam Delegation. Ladies and gentlemen, with this signing ceremony, we complete the tasks entrusted to us in the regular agenda of the 7th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum. I would like to invite President Yasuhiro Nakasone to say a few words to close this session. Mr. Nakasone.

President of the APPF:

Once again, I would like to use this opportunity to extend my gratitude to everyone of you. The 7th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum accomplished many things and, at the same time, with the fine and excellent Chairmanship of Chairman Sandoval, I would like to extend my gratitude for the smoothness in which everything took place. And once again, I would like to extend my thanks to your cooperation as well.

During the entire Forum of the 7th Meeting, the press here in Peru have transmitted our proceedings on TV and I feel very honored. We would like to extend once again our gratitude to the Parliament of Peru. According to Chairman Sandoval, many photographs of this event have been taken and will be developed. And also I believe that preparations are underway so that videotapes depicting this forum will soon be distributed to us.

With these wonderful souvenirs, and the wonderful work and sincerity and hospitality extended us, we are very grateful on behalf of all of you. I think that the videotape of this conference will be a very powerful tool for my next election campaign.

And I would like to thank you for that. I would like to look forward to meeting you once again in Australia. And with this I would like to conclude my remarks.

Chairman:

President Nakasone, distinguished ladies and gentlemen. I want to thank Mr. Nakasone for his kind words and I also want to thank you all for the very kind expressions of warmth that you have had during the past few years for me and my colleagues of the Congress of Peru.

We hope that we have done enough, first, to show you a little bit of our country and what our country has to offer to its foreign friends. And second, and at the same time, we hope we have also done enough to organize a conference in order to be at a stature of an organization which was founded by Mr. Nakasone a few years ago, and as is now recognized as one of the leading parliamentarian organizations in the world. One that is not only able to reach important decisions by consensus, one that is not only able to convey to their meetings, dignitaries of the statures of yourselves, there being several Presidents of Congress, of House of Representatives and of Senates of very important nations of the Asia-Pacific region and of the world, represented here.

We hope that we have been able to show you that Peru wishes to participate with strength, not only in the economy of the Asia-Pacific but also in the endeavors of organizations such as this one. I wish to tell you that the efforts that you may have generously recognized in our part, have had the objective of telling you how Peru wishes to be an active player in this part of the world. And we wish to be an

active player in this part of the world because we believe that our country first has the merit of being an active player, hopefully and eventually, will become one of the leaders in the region. Also to be able to attract interest of people such as yourselves, businessmen and tourists, because our country wishes to be open to investments, to commerce, to technology and to capital.

Because we the Parliamentarians of Peru obviously desire, as you desire for your own people, the improvement and the better conditions of the Peruvian people. And we understand that in the global village in which we live, this cannot only be accomplished with the efforts of the Peruvians only, but also with the interests and investments of the nations represented here. Because we believe that if we are successful in attracting your attention, the attention of the businessmen, the attention of the tourists, then our economy will grow. And our interest for the economy to grow is not only to have that as a name but because if our economy grows, obviously, our people will grow better, we will be able to give them better education, better health, better infrastructure and a better future.

This is what we have had in mind when we have done our best which we hope is enough in showing you what Peru is all about in this very short period of time. So I hope that you will take back with good memories of our country. We expect to continue being a supporter of this organization even if after 4 years of being in the Executive Committee, we have relinquished this position to our very able and distinguished colleagues of Mexico and then of Chile. I want to wish you farewell and ask you to please come back and visit us again.

Thank you so much.

(applauses)

We are now going to have the scheduled press conference so we would like to invite the leaders of the Delegations to please come up and once all the leaders of the Delegations are set up, we will start the press conference. The rest of the members are invited to stay if they wish.

American Delegation:

Mr. Chairman, in the plural I noted yesterday the eloquence of the Australians in thanking you for hosting this extraordinary meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum here in a country that we have all come to know better and I think have come to admire as we have come to understand it more. I do not want to start something, but in that I feel, and I am sure that I speak for many here, that I have a good friend in Oswaldo Sandoval that I just did not want this moment to be missed, and a number of other Delegations have suggested that someone say something and so, on behalf of us all, I thank you for the extraordinary efforts. Your Delegation is quite a remarkable group of people given their history, in terms of their political life and life outside of politics. So, thank you, very much, Oswaldo, Mr. Nakasone, for this remarkable experience and as you have so actively said conclusion of a very, very successful 7th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum.

(Applauses)

Chairman:

Now, we are going to have the press conference. Will the Heads of the Delegations, please come up to the table?

Press Conference

Good morning to the media representatives. On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum and as Chair of the 7th Annual Meeting, I wish to grant the warmest welcome to this Press Conference in which we will through your questions, give a report of the agreements adopted in this meeting. You might have received, or you are about to, the document called "Joint Communiqué" translated into Spanish, that will reflect all the agreements reached by the 7th Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum during the sessions that started on Monday and that have been closed some minutes ago, with the approval and the adoption of this Joint Communiqué. We must perhaps stress the issues related to financial and economic aspects that are obviously very important, of main interest for the countries of the region, but not only that. We have also debated and discussed on issues referred to aspects such as El Niño Phenomenon, The Culture of Peace, the Non-Proliferation of Antipersonnel Land Mines, Security and Safety issues referred to the Asian zone and the struggle against Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering. And moreover we have made the decision and the will of re-electing Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone for another term of three years, having finished in this year the term for which he was elected. We have also chosen a new Executive Committee, and decided that the next meeting will be held in Australia, in Canberra. I will now open the floor, we have microphones for the questions you might want to do the Heads of Delegation. You have heard mentioning while signing the Joint Communiqué the names of the countries represented here, so you might address your questions to the delegations you might deem convenient. Please, at the beginning of the question, do say whom you are addressing your question. Thank you.

Mr. Nakasone will have a few words before anything else. Thank you.

Mr. Nakasone:

First of all, I would like to thank the people of Peru and also the media, the journalists of Peru. We were able to successfully complete the APPF Annual Meeting, thanks to the great efforts performed by the Peruvian Government, the Peruvian Congress, and the support of the people, and you people of the media, as well as the great leadership of Chairman Sandoval. We have accomplished quite a lot at this Annual Meeting. And what impressed me most during the last few days, was that members of the Peruvian Congress and also Congressmen of Ecuador, after a Resolution was passed, they hugged each other for the peaceful settlement of the borders between Ecuador and Peru, that was so impressive and tears came to my eyes. We also worked on the land mine problems. This is something that this Annual Meeting urged to remove as quick as possible. Also, we had the APOINT 2001, and that is the Internet system that we developed under the leadership of Mr. Sandoval, and that we have completed. And during the meeting we saw the Home page of APPF operated by Mr. Sandoval, and I was almost shocked to see that such a wonderful device is already available for the members of this APPF. All of us now go back to our respective countries, and we should have all this equipment and means of technology to be able to utilize them as much as possible.

We participate at numerous international organizations and at the United Nations, but I think maybe we are the most advanced in utilizing the advanced technology for communication. Of course we have approved numerous Resolutions dealing with the serious problems of economic recession and financial crisis. We recognized the vulnerability of the financial systems that we have to deal with in our region. However, we urged the reforms of IMF and other financial institutions of the world. When we go back to our respective countries we will take that back. Also, we will do our best effort to conduct our businesses to improve this situation as quickly as possible. We recognized the responsibility of Japan as well.

We also selected the new members of our Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will be responsible to carry out our tasks towards the 21st Century. The next Annual Meeting of APPF will be held in Australia. We are looking forward to meeting all of you next year in Australia. Thank you so much.

Journalist of EFE: (Spanish News Agency)

Good Morning. I am from EFE, and I would like to make a couple of questions to Mr. Nakasone. The first one is referred to the Report on the Region's Economic Situation, where you stressed that it will be difficult for the Asian Region to recover its dynamics and the economic growth, as long as Japan had not recovered its growth level. And I would like to ask Mr. Nakasone. What do you consider are the main hurdles that will impede the recovery of Japan?

And second, are you wishing to take the leadership of an eventual program of economic recovery of your country?

Mr. Nakasone:

One of the problems we had was the excessive investment and non-performing assets at the Japanese banks. This is something we are working on and things are improving according to the schedule and also, the supplementary budget has also been passed at the Diet and we feel that the plans are in place to work on the recovery measures.

The economic growth rate in Japan has been negative, however, for this coming year, we are certain it will be either zero or positive, therefore, we will be able to foresee more clearly, studying this fall and I am hoping it will be +1% or so. Up to this difficulty we have had, Japan always had achieved a 2% positive growth rate and we hope we can go back to that level as quickly as possible.

Journalist:

Good morning. My question is for Mr. Sandoval. You have approved 40 resolutions throughout the whole event. I would like to know how you are going to make the government fulfill these resolutions?

Mr. Sandoval:

This organization, the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum, is an organization regrouping parliaments of 24 countries of the region. The decisions adopted in this organization are decisions adopted by consensus that will not have any possibility of being mandatory for the governments given that, in the first place, the representatives attending this forum are representatives of parliaments and not governments, and secondly, because they tend to be recommendations for the parliamentarians to take to their own parliaments and congresses and their own government as an expression of regional consensus on matters and topics that are of common interest.

It has been already two years that the Peruvian delegation and this time another delegation has suggested that they were planning that in each assembly or meeting, the delegates would report with regard to the resolutions of the prior year, what was done in the different parliaments during that year.

But to directly answer your question the intent of this forum is not to issue resolutions that are mandatory for the governments at all. Thank you.

Journalist (Peruvian Newspaper):

For Mr. Sandoval. I want to ask you what kind of decisions can be taken at this regional level to alleviate the economic crisis? Have you agreed on a joint decision on this?

Mr. Sandoval:

On the economic and financial issue, this has been the topic that has taken more time in our session. The whole Monday morning we had a great debate on this issue and each delegation has sent a report, in writing, on the financial and economic situation of their own countries.

The resolution on this matter agreed upon by consensus is a resolution that finally implied some suggestions, some would say, questioning the way in which the IMF has been acting up to date. That in some regions it has not allowed to foresee circumstances as the ones we have lived through and are still living. There is also the border determination of a joint work of the countries of the region to have a mutual support on improving the financial and economic situation of the region. We have also suggested the possibility of assessing the creation of a mechanism so there could be a more concrete follow-up to the financial situation of our region, additionally to the fact that we need supervising institutions of the financial entities, that might make a closer follow-up of the development, mainly, of the financial institutions.

To be concrete, this is a matter that is really important for this organization.

Journalist (Peruvian Newspaper):

From Diario El Comercio: It was precisely said that the Resolutions are not mandatory for the countries. So how can we channel all the suggestions of reform to the IMF?

Through activities such as this one. In this Forum we have parliaments represented. Parliaments of countries that represent more than half of the world's population, almost 50% of the international trade. This Forum jointly represents countries whose GDP has the highest and fastest growth in the world, where technological growth is substantial, and whose political standpoint has a certain weight in the international community.

So the way in which there is the possibility of having changes, as you say, is precisely because of the influence of people like those visiting us and once you repeat these matters in meetings like these and others, you create an awareness of the need of some changes. If you allow me, perhaps one of my colleagues in the table would like to make a comment on the question of this journalist.

Mr. Sandoval:

Anyone would like to have the floor?

Yes, the Chairman of the Congress of Australia, Mr. Neil Andrew wants to make some comments on this question.

Australian Delegation:

Can I add to the remarks that are being made by Chairman Sandoval, and say that from Australia's point of view, one of the most valuable parts of the debate about the changes of the IMF were the remarks made by Congressman Amo Houghton, who pointed out that the movement of capital has 70 times more influence on the world than the movement of trade. So just the smallest of improvements in the arrangements for the IMF could have enormous impact on the general prosperity of this region.

From Australia's point of view this has been a very valuable Congress.

Journalist (Peruvian Newspaper):

Nancy Miller, Diario Cambio: Mr. Nakasone, at a certain point in the future, would the Forum try to look for a mechanism that will have more impact on the international financial organizations as well as a better vision or a better treatment with the countries of the third world? Thank you.

Mr. Nakasone:

One of the central points of our discussion was that we need first of all to overcome all vulnerabilities. Including Japan, I think each of the countries represented have various vulnerabilities, and this is true, particularly of Japan, vis a vis the influx of large amounts of short-term capital. We had a two-week supervision, and I think we were too dependent on taking up to the dollar. There was perhaps an

excessive opening of the market and I think that the excessive amount of short-term fund influx, resulted in this crisis, and one of the culprits, I think, was the hedge fund. So we need to more strongly supervise the hedge funds and enhance the transparency of the hedge funds. I think this was recognized at our discussion.

As for the reform of the IMF, in fact, having an open market is extremely important so we should not go back in terms of the opening of the market. But there might be a question on the way that IMF has dealt with the critical situations. The IMF formula should take into account the individual circumstances of the countries concerned, and I think we came to realize of the weaknesses of the IMF's measures, and I think there is a growing consensus that the IMF should be reformed, and through various Parliaments and through governments, I am certain that eventually IMF will be reformed. As for the movement of hedge funds and transparency, this should be enhanced in terms of how much the hedge funds have accumulated, so a stronger supervision would be required and I am sure this issue will be taken up in international forum, through various Parliaments or party activities, we would like to exert our influences to improve the situation, so through the global cooperation, I think we can become one of the drivers in multinational and international cooperation to bring up their reform.

Journalist (Peruvian Newspaper)

My question is if the Euro as a currency will favor the economy of the Asian countries or the third world countries as a whole.

Senator D.Hays from Canada:

It is a difficult question and thanks Mr. Sandoval for referring it to me.

I do not know that is possible to predict at this early stage of the coming into existence of the Euro among those countries who are committed to it, as to who specifically will help. The reason for it of course is to help the Europeans, and those in the European Union by creating a currency which will be an international standard currency that they hope will be used alongside the US Dollar. I think it would be fair to say that if all goes as they wish, this will help world trade and I hope it will be something that will give us an opportunity, those of us who are not trading into the European Union to the degree that we would like to, I hope it is something that will give us an opportunity through the World Trade Organization Negotiation that will be commencing a year from now, and through the sentiment that the Euro stands for in terms of the European Union being more confident as a trading area, hopefully this will all result in them opening their market to a greater degree than they have, and if that happens that will benefit everyone.

Mr. Sandoval:

Ladies and gentlemen on behalf of our Meeting we want to thank you for your presence and attendance here. The press conference is over.