SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING
OF THE WTO COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 21-23 June 1990

1. Convened by Mr. Antonio Enríquez Savignac, Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization, and chaired by Mr. Fernando A. Rainieri, Secretary of State for Tourism of the Dominican Republic, the Commission's twenty-first meeting was held at Santo Domingo at the generous invitation of the Dominican Government.

Participating in the meeting were representatives from 13 Full Members of the Commission, 3 Associate Members, 7 Affiliate Members, Observers from 4 States non members of WTO and from 3 intergovernmental organizations. Spain, a Full Member of the Commission for Europe, also attended as an Observer. (List of participants attached).

The meeting was opened with two addresses given by Mr. Fernando Rainieri and Mr. Antonio Enríquez Savignac in an opening ceremony attended by Ms. Beatriz Canal del Barco in her capacity as Chairman of the Executive Council.

2. Communication of the Chairman

The Chairman of the Commission described trends affecting tourism and its contribution to the national economies of many countries in the region. He explained the need for cooperation between all public and private sectors involved in tourism development. Such development should be based, according to Mr. Rainieri, on a strategy that takes into account the social, cultural and environmental values as well as the general economic development needs of each country.

3. Communication of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General described the Organization's situation and that of the Secretariat when he assumed his functions, mentioning the limitations observed with respect to staff, financial resources and operating capacity. He thanked the Government of Spain for the resources made available to the Secretariat.
He said that the Secretariat should generate information and technical marketing advisory services. He described his desire to integrate WTO with the other agencies of the international system, since the problems to be solved are so great that each has a role to play without duplicating efforts. He said he hoped the countries would give higher priority to tourism in their national plans so that the sector could benefit from greater national and multilateral resources for development.

The Secretary-General stressed the importance of the Organization's affiliate membership, which must be expanded by making WTO a forum for the exchange of information and solutions to concrete problems.

He announced a change in the work of the Regional Commissions, which would henceforth concentrate on the holding of technical Seminars on themes of current interest to the Members of the Region.

Finally, he indicated that his efforts would be directed towards revitalizing the Secretariat and encouraging the participation of member States to make the Organization a world tourism forum, in keeping with the initial motivations for its establishment.

4. Representation of the Commission in the Executive Council and its subsidiary organs

The Secretariat reported on the meetings that have taken place since the last meeting of the Commission and on the Members who participated in them.

The Commission agreed that the participation of its representatives on the Executive Council and its subsidiary organs tends to strengthen coordination with the programmes of other regional organization and with those of the other Regional Commissions, avoiding duplication of effort and ensuring access to information generated for countries or sub-regions of other Commissions. Greater technical content should be given to the Organization's programmes that lead to concrete results for the Members of the Commission and thus help to attract new Full and Affiliate Members. The Commission also reflected on the role of WTO and on the new opportunities offered to the Commission by the election of a Secretary-General from their region with extensive experience in implementing large-scale tourism programmes.

5. Members of the Commission

It was recalled that World Tourism Day is celebrated in order to promote and disseminate awareness about tourism's contribution to economic and social development. The Commission was informed that the theme approved by the General Assembly for 1990 (resolution 269(VIII)), is "Tourism an unrecognized industry, a service to be released (The Hague Declaration on Tourism)".

The Secretariat reported that Guatemala had applied for membership of the Organization and that Costa Rica and Paraguay had requested information concerning membership.
El Salvador and Nicaragua had expressed interest in joining the Organization.

The Commission decided that States should also take steps on an individual basis to encourage non-member States to join the Organization.

The Secretariat will provide States attempting to generate new affiliate membership, with information to assist them in that task.

The Commission noted that certain Members are in arrears in the payment of their contributions but that Ecuador would propose a gradual payment plan for the cancellation of unpaid contributions. Among the Affiliate Members, the Instituto de Capacitación Turística de Venezuela (INCATUR), announced that it would complete the payment of arrear contributions in 1991.


The Secretariat reported on activities being conducted by the Secretariat in the area of technical cooperation and by the Secretary-General personally to diversify financing resources.

The Commission requested the Secretariat to coordinate its technical cooperation activities with other bodies, especially those of a regional nature, as well as with States, such as Spain, that provide this type of assistance in order to avoid duplication of efforts, which in some cases results when beneficiary States submit the same request to several multilateral or bilateral institutions.

In the context of expanding possibilities for action in the field of technical cooperation, the Commission took note of the willingness of Cuba and other countries to share their experience in tourism development with third countries.

In order to attain this objective, the Commission stressed the importance of ensuring the circulation of information on activities and financial support resources for projects in order to be able to act as necessary at any given time.

The Secretariat reported on activities planned for each of the epigraphs in the agenda and requested the Members of the Commission to respond to the questionnaires sent to them on tourist security and the environment or to send whatever comments and suggestions they consider appropriate concerning ways of channelling these activities towards areas where the greater interest has been shown.

The Commission stressed that countries should be urged to improve tourist circulation by expanding tourism facilitation measures, especially by reducing visa requirements and other frontier control formalities. At the request of the delegation of Uruguay, the Commission endorsed the initiative "South American Passport", designed to strengthen promotion, information and facilitation measures adopted by the COTASUR Governments.
It also endorsed recommendations formulated at recent meetings of CARICOM and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), condemning all illegal narcotics trafficking and consumption, which have negatively affected tourism development.

It expressed its agreement with the establishment of criteria for the selection of new WTO Regional Education and Training Centres.

Argentina, Canada and Mexico expressed their interest in participating in the working party that will prepare the programme of activities for the Environment Committee.

The Commission thanked the Secretariat for the statistical information provided and requested its Members to send the Secretariat any comments and suggestions they consider appropriate concerning ways in which its activities can provide the greatest benefit to Members. The Members were also requested to provide basic information both quantitative and qualitative, to update the data bank of the Secretariat.

The Secretariat reported to the Commission on preparations for the International Conference on Youth Tourism as well as on the objectives, work programme and schedule for the sessions of the Conference, as recently agreed upon by the working party set up to handle its preparation.

The Commission urged its Members that have still not done so to appoint liaison agents, to respond to the questionnaire sent to them on Youth Tourism and to prepare concrete national case studies related to the themes of the Conference.

The Commission noted that Uruguay had created a National Working Party on Youth Tourism and established a Youth Tourist Card, entitling holders to reduced prices for transport and other tourist services.

The Secretariat reported on follow-up action with regard to decisions taken by the Commission at earlier meetings with respect to preparations for the Year of Tourism in the Americas: 1992. The Commission noted that the theme and logotype competition had been cancelled due to lack of interest. The Dominican Republic requested each country to organize a national competition and at the end of 1990 to submit the winning theme and logotype to the Secretariat.

After hearing about the progress made by some countries in developing the Maya Route, the Commission noted that Mexico intended to submit two specific programmes of action to the Secretariat for WTO assistance.

The Commission was informed that none of the proposals for financing the Special Secretariat at Santo Domingo had received a positive response.
7. **Place and date of the twenty-second meeting of the Commission**

The Commission unanimously accepted the invitation of the Government of Canada to hold its twenty-second meeting at Ottawa in late June 1991. This meeting will be held in conjunction with a Seminar on tourism and the use of natural, social and cultural resources. The Commission thanked the Government of the Dominican Republic for the warm and generous welcome it had provided to the delegates during the twenty-first meeting.
I. PRESIDENTE DE LA COMISION/
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION

REPUBLICA DOMINICANA/
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Lic. Fernando A. RAINIERI M.
Secretario de Estado de Turismo
Secretaría de Estado de Turismo

II. MIEMBROS EFECTIVOS/FULL MEMBERS

ARGENTINA

Lic. Carlos GUTIERREZ
Director General de Economía Turística
y Relaciones Institucionales
Ente Nacional de Turismo (ENATUR)

BRASIL/BRAZIL

Sr. Reinaldo M. DA CUNHA NUNES
Jefe del Gabinete del Presidente
EMBRATUR

CANADA

Mr. Guy BEDARD
Director General, Product Development
Tourism Canada

Mr. Frank STOCK
Senior Policy Analyst
Tourism Canada

COLOMBIA

Sra. Marta Lucía HINCAPIE DE LOS RIOS
Gerente General
Corporación Nacional de Turismo (CNT)

Sra. Beatriz CANAL DE BARCO
Directora de la Oficina de Turismo de
la CNT para Europa
Representante Permanente ante la OMT

CUBA

Sr. Enrique RODRIGUEZ MANZANO
Vicepresidente Primero
Instituto Nacional de Turismo/INTUR

Sr. Esteban Orosmán QUINTERO HERRERA
Vicepresidente
Turismo Internacional (INTUR)

Sr. Roberto SOLIS VALDES
Representante permanente ante la OMT

Sr. Roberto GONZALEZ
ECUADOR

Arq. David PARRA BOZZANO
Asesor - Director Técnico
Corporación Ecuatoriana de Turismo

ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA/
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Ms. Hope GOTTLIEB
Second Secretary, Economic Section
American Embassy in the Dominican Republic

HAITI

Mr. Louis VILMENEY
Director General
National Tourism Office

Sra. Micheline NASSAR
Encargada de la Oficina de Turismo de Haití en la República Dominicana

JAMAICA

Ms. Heather THOMPSON
Acting Director, Developing and Monitoring
Ministry of Tourism

MEXICO

Lic. Carlos CAMACHO GAOS
Subsecretario de Promoción y Fomento
Secretaría de Turismo

Lic. Alejandro BEUCHOT
Director General de Promoción
Secretaría de Turismo

Lic. Rodolfo LOBATO
Asesor del Secretario de Turismo
Coordinador del Programa Mundo Maya
Secretaría de Turismo

Lic. Luis GARCIA Y ERDMANN
Encargado de Negocios a.i.
Embajada de México en la República Dominicana

PANAMA

Sra. Angélica GUINARD
Subgerente General
Instituto Panameño de Turismo (IPAT)
II. MIEMBROS ASOCIADOS/
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

ANTILLAS NEERLANDESAS
Sr. Henry William C. MARTINEZ
Director de Turismo para Europa

ARUBA
Sr. Remigio A. R. WEVER

PUERTO RICO
Sr. Amadeo I. FRANCIS
Secretario Adjunto de Estado para Relaciones Internacionales

III. MIEMBRO OBSERVADOR/
OBSERVER MEMBER

ESPAÑA/SPAIN
Sra. Esperanza GALLIANO RAMOS
Directora General de Política Turística - Secretaría General de Turismo

IV. ESTADOS NO MIEMBROS/
NON-MEMBER STATES

EL SALVADOR
Sr. Carlos HIRLEMANN
Presidente
Instituto Salvadoreño de Turismo

Sr. Raúl SOLER
Director
Instituto Salvadoreño de Turismo

Arq. Nehemías MARTINEZ LOPEZ
Jefe del Departamento de Planificación
Instituto Salvadoreño de Turismo
IV. ESTADOS NO MIEMBROS/
NON MEMBER STATES (cont.)

GUATEMALA
Lic. José Miguel GAITAN DAVILA
Subdirector General
Instituto Guatemalteco de Turismo
Sra. Enriqueta DE LEON DE BETANCES
Agregado Cultural y de Turismo
Embajada de Guatemala en la
República Dominicana

HONDURAS
Lic. Iván ROMERO MARTINEZ
Embajador de Honduras en la
República Dominicana

NICARAGUA
Lic. Alvaro CHAMORRO MORA
Ministro-Director
Instituto Nicaragüense de Turismo
Lic. Ramón LACAYO P.
Director de Relaciones Públicas
Instituto Nicaragüense de Turismo

V. MIEMBROS APILIADOS/
AFFILIATE MEMBERS

BOHIO DOMINICANO
Sr. Luis Augusto CAMINERO JIMENEZ
Director
Sr. Carlos Augusto CAMINERO CABRER
Relaciones Públicas/Ventas

CARIBBEAN TOURISM ORGANIZATION
(CTO)
Mr. Jean S. HOLDER
Secretary-General
Mr. Víctor CURTIN
Tourism Adviser

CONFEDERACION DE ORGANIZACIONES
TURISTICAS DE LA AMERICA LATINA
(COTAL)
Sr. Armando ESPINEL
Presidente

CONSEJO NACIONAL EMPRESARIAL
TURISTICO (México)
Lic. Eduardo BARROSO
Director General
Lic. Raúl CARRERA LAstra
Decano, Facultad de Administración
de Empresas Turísticas y Hoteleras

UNIVERSIDAD EXTERNADO DE COLOMBIA
Sr. Gabriel READ
Presidente

UNIVERSIDAD INTERAMERICANA
(República Dominicana)
Sra. Yezmin HERNANDEZ SOTO
Coordinadora, Programa de Turismo

UNIVERSIDAD DEL SAGRADO
CORAZON (Puerto Rico)
VI. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

BANCO INTERAMERICANO DE DESARROLLO/INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (BID/IDB)
Sr. Nelson OCAMPO
Representante Residente en la República Dominicana

ORGANIZACION DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS/ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OEA/OAS)
Lic. Fernando F. CAVADA
Representante y Director de la OEA en la República Dominicana

ORGANIZATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES (OECS)
Mr. George GOODWIN
Chief Sector Policy & Planning OECS Tourism Coordinator

VII. OBSERVER

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID)
Ms. Nedra HUGGINS-WILLIAMS
Deputy Program Officer

VIII. SEMINAR EXPOSITORS

MEXICO
Lic. Alejandro MORONES OCHOA
Director General
Morones Ochoa & Asociados
Arq. Javier SOLORZANO
Director de Desarrollo
Morones Ochoa & Asociados

REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA /
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
Lic. Jaime Moreno
Asesor Económico
Secretaría de Estado de Turismo
Lic. Plinio CABRERA
Especialista Ambiental
Consultor de la Secretaría de Estado de Turismo
Lic. Yutaka YOKOYAMA KANO
Especialista en Ingeniería Sanitaria
Consultor de la Secretaría de Estado de Turismo