



**"The Caribbean Media: Freedom and Understanding"  
Meeting held at the Jamaica Conference Centre  
in Kingston, Jamaica  
on World Press Freedom Day, May 3, 1998**

**PREAMBLE:**

The Caribbean Media: Freedom and Understanding Meeting held in Jamaica on World Press Freedom Day, May 3, 1998 being of the opinion that freedom of expression, including press freedom and access to information is a fundamental human right, invites the Caribbean governments to decide an measures to reinforce its practical application as means of peaceful co-operation and the fostering of a "Culture of Peace" in the region.

**THE MEETING RESOLVED TO:**

1. Urge all Caribbean Heads of Government, following the example set by the Prime Minister of Jamaica. to endorse the principles and sign the Declaration of Chapultepec which sets out ten common principles describing freedom of the press.
2. Convey to the Government of Cuba our regret at its refusal to issue travel documents to journalists in Cuba invited to attend this Caribbean Seminar. These journalists include the newly appointed Inter American Press Association's Regional Vice-President for Freedom of the Press in Cuba.
3. Urge the CARICOM governments to insist that freedom of the press in Cuba be an integral part of the agenda for future discussions regarding Cuba's possible inclusion in CARICOM, an association of democratic countries which historically have given great respect to protecting human rights including a free press and further urge the CARICOM governments to press for the ending of the economic embargo against Cuba by the United States of America and interference with its airwaves.
4. Urge all CARICOM governments to pass and make effective legislation to support the decisions taken by the regional Heads of Government to allow persons with qualifications from recognised institutions and certain categories of workers, including media personnel, to work freely anywhere in the region.
5. Urge the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to change its regrettable decision and grant permission to Barbados journalist and national, Julian Rogers, so that he may continue his work in Trinidad and Tobago.
6. Urge all the governments of the region to bring an early conclusion to the revision of libel laws now taking place and to implement such changes as are necessary after consultation with the Caribbean media to encourage and develop the working of a free and independent regional press.

This information is provided by

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7. Work towards the re-establishment and strengthening of organisations which bring together Caribbean media personnel on a regular basis for ongoing dialogue, co-operation and lobbying for the protection and expansion of press freedom and related issues throughout the region.
8. Urge that media organizations consider the merits of establishing National Media Councils or other entities to deal with complaints from the public and matters relating to the freedom and conduct of the press in consonance with editorial policies with a view to enhancing freedom of the press and freedom of expression.
9. Seek to improve standards in journalism by urging training institutions in the region to take the necessary steps to consolidate efforts aimed at human resource development.
10. Express its thanks to the many organizations, including UNESCO and Interights which supported this valuable meeting, the first of the Caribbean media held in over a decade.

**May 3, 1998**