

2-7-1989

# Secretary General: Discussion Of Debt Problem Appropriate For Organization Of American States

John Neagle

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur>

---

## Recommended Citation

Neagle, John. "Secretary General: Discussion Of Debt Problem Appropriate For Organization Of American States." (1989).  
<https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur/2693>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiSur by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [amywinter@unm.edu](mailto:amywinter@unm.edu).

## **Secretary General: Discussion Of Debt Problem Appropriate For Organization Of American States**

*by John Neagle*

*Category/Department: General*

*Published: Tuesday, February 7, 1989*

In an interview with Venezuelan daily El Nacional (Caracas) published on Feb. 6, Secretary General of the Organization of American States Joao Baena Soares said that given the political dimension of the foreign debt, it could be discussed within the OAS. Soares was visiting Caracas to attend the Feb. 2 inauguration ceremonies of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. "I see the OAS as an organization where problems cannot be omitted [from the agenda]. We have in the OAS the largest creditor and the five largest debtors. How then can this problem be ignored? I do not agree with the view that the OAS is not an adequate forum to discuss problems. "At present, the debt is seen as a political question, whereas this was not previously the case. Thus, I think that we are dealing with a political problem, we have a political organization (the OAS), and the topic can be discussed therein." For the secretary general, the debt must be analyzed on the basis of its political dimensions, e.g., the necessity of assuring development and social justice for the citizens of Latin American and Caribbean nations. "We must seek to convince creditors that it is in their interest to guarantee the internal progress of each debtor country, that each secures a portion of its national production for measures of social justice," he said. "We cannot continue in a mode which nearly all the national product and effort in some cases, all go to making interest payments," said Soares. In response to a question on the new US administration, Baena Soares replied: "We must not always wait on North America to act toward Latin America. A movement from Latin America to the United States is necessary. The region must offer dialogue with a political agenda, and not wait for something to happen on the part of the other." Baena Soares said he supports the view held by many Latin American countries that Cuba should be reincorporated into the OAS. (Basic data from AFP, 02/06/89)

-- End --