XXXIX GENERAL ASSEMBLY
DIALOGUE ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE HEADS OF DELEGATION, THE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE
PERMANENT OBSERVER COUNTRIES

REMARKS FROM
THE HEAD OF DELEGATION OF
THE PERMANENT OBSERVER COUNTRY OF

UNITED
KINGDOM OF
GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN
IRELAND

JUNE 1, 2009
Intervention by His Excellency Ambassador Tom Kennedy from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

Your Excellency Madame Vice‐Minister of Foreign Affairs, Distinguished Ambassador Ramdin, Honourable Minister and Heads of Delegation,

I am honoured to be here to speak on behalf of Her Majesty’s Government. I thank the OAS, the Government of Honduras and the people of San Pedro Sula for your warm hospitality.

Much social, economic and political progress has been achieved in recent years across the Americas and the British government salutes this. But important challenges remain. The theme of this Assembly - “Towards a culture of Non‐Violence”- is crucial to the lives of millions of people, and to the achievement of progress, democracy and human rights. People, the length and breadth of the Americas are looking to this Assembly to show leadership and resolve in addressing this important issue.

On Britain’s commitment to the OAS, we support the peaceful resolution of the territorial dispute between Belize and Guatemala and have committed £200,000 toward the legal fees of this issue being adjudicated at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). We have also given funding for the OAS Adjacency Zone office on the border between the two countries and for elections monitoring in Antigua & Barbuda.

The UK fully supports the OAS and shares its values and aims. We salute its achievements, its high standing, its professionalism and objectivity. And we look forward with great interest to the forthcoming deliberations of the General Assembly.

Thank you for your attention.