Remarks
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Remarks

[Mr. Loumiet began his speech by thanking Ambassador Ambler Moss, his colleagues at Greenberg Traurig, his friends and clients, his family, his wife, and the editors of the Inter-American Law Review.]

Although many have not yet fully grasped our region's brilliant international future, we have entered a new era in the history of this hemisphere. The era of integration (and of its corollary, harmonization) is at last upon us. Fifteen years ago I came to Miami hoping to see happen what has finally happened. We have arrived at a new stage in history where the term "American" will revert to its initial meaning: someone from the Americas, not just from the United States. Bolivar's dream will not only be realized, it will be surpassed.

Driving all of this are those two inexorable forces in modern society: technology and economics. The politicians can bicker and dither, but they too are simply reacting to forces beyond their control. Even the Summit of the Americas in Miami 1994—an event whose remarkable historic significance will not be fully understood for decades to come—was a recognition by our hemisphere's political leaders of events unfolding all around them.

The reality is that, as George Allen was fond of saying, "the future is now." We must embrace the coming age and try to help shape it, or it will bulldoze right over and by us. There is no going back any more than we can return to the past in our own lives. No matter how many walls and fences some politicians may wish to erect around the United States, isolationism is gone forever, and Pan-Americanism is here to stay.
No matter who is elected President of the United States this fall, Chile will be admitted to the NAFTA, and after Chile the MERCOSUR countries, Panama and many others, in one order or another. There will, in the lifetimes of many of us here, be a common market of over 900 million people in this hemisphere, more than 600 million of whom, I note, will not speak English as their primary language.

For all of us in Miami, this is the most exciting of times, since we are at the geographic, political, and social epicenter for all of this. In truth, we are nobody's choice but our own for the role of de facto capital of this emerging hemispheric community. However, we are everybody else's second choice after his or her own community, and with enough hard work on our part, that is enough to secure a leadership role. I would simply remind you from our own state's history that Tallahassee became the capital of Florida as a compromise, because it was equally convenient to both Pensacola and Jacksonville, the two leading cities in Florida in the early 1800s, each of which vetoed the other's aspiration.

So what is it that has to be done in order to realize Miami's destiny? First and foremost, Miami must become Latin America's and the Caribbean's best friend in this country. Both of those regions can well use such a friend. Miami must earn the trust of the people south, east, and west of us by helping them to realize the opportunities they pursue, presenting new opportunities to them, and becoming their key ally and spokesperson in the United States. Miami must become their political, economic, and social bridge to the Northern Hemisphere.

Second, and ancillary to this, Miami must have the vision to spot where and what the region's needs are and will be, then to propose and promote solutions to those needs. In other words, Miami must not only follow, it must also lead.

Fourteen years ago, as an associate in Miami, I came to believe that Miami would one day be a center for commercial dispute resolution for this hemisphere. For the last three years I spent many Saturday mornings working with Professor Allan Swan of the University of Miami School of Law, and one or two others, to draft an international arbitration statute that would be a pace setter in its field. That statute, which now compromises Chapter 684 of the Florida Statutes, was enacted in 1986, and even today remains the most progressive, pro-international arbitration statute I know of. Many of its then novel concepts
have been copied in other states which have since adopted their own international arbitration statutes.

The Summit of the Americas in December of 1994 endorsed as one of its goals the creation of a regional center for international commercial dispute resolution. By every conceivable standard Miami should fit that role. And now, with the recent revitalization of the Commercial Dispute Resolution Center of the Americas, and the possible launching of other similar efforts in our community, perhaps this dream is about to become reality.

In a similar vein, Cyberport—briefly described by Ambassador Moss in his presentation—is a concept whose time has clearly come. It is, I believe, just the type of project that all of us in Miami should encourage. We will not be displacing Latin American capital markets, but rather enhancing them, by implementing such a proposal.

There are many other examples that can be brought up. However, since this gathering is under the auspices of the Inter-American Law Review, let me leave you with this last thought: the whole nature of legal education must also change in order to prepare lawyers to deal with the international reality of hemispheric business. If you wish to be active in international business matters, it is no longer possible to limit yourself to the jurisdictions where you are admitted to the practice of law. You must be able to help your clients wherever their problems and needs arise. Of course, you can utilize local counsel to help you in the different jurisdictions involved, but you must be able to deal comfortably with multiple legal systems and the problems arising under those systems. Unfortunately, legal education throughout this hemisphere remains highly parochial and does not properly prepare young lawyers for this reality. This has to change, and I see an exciting opportunity for the University of Miami School of Law to be a leader in this change. For example, it is not difficult to imagine a special program leading to a J.D. in Common and Civil Law, whose students would be required to have proficiency in the three basic languages in this hemisphere (English, Spanish, and Portuguese) and which would graduate lawyers who would feel comfortable dealing with legal problems virtually anywhere in this hemisphere. It should even be possible for graduates from such a program to sit for the bar not only in the United States, but, with some additional course work, in other jurisdiction in this hemisphere as well. These graduates would
certainly be uniquely prepared and qualified not only to repre-
sent clients in this ever increasing international business world
looming ahead of us, but also to help in the integration and har-
monization of systems and cultures that will be an inevitable by-
product of our hemisphere’s future.

Once again, thank you all for the honor you have bestowed
on me here tonight, and I look forward to sharing with all of you,
and with our entire region, many brilliant and exciting tomor-
rows.

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