

## Statement on Defence

BELIZE HOUSE  
Belmopan  
24 July 1981

### **STATEMENT ON DEFENCE**

1. Premier Price of Belize and the Hon. Nicholas Ridley, MP, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, discussed on 22 July the arrangements to be made after Independence for the Defence of Belize.
2. Recognising its responsibility to bring Belize to a secure Independence, Her Majesty's Government has agreed with the Government of Belize appropriate measures to ensure a sound basis for the future security of Belize from any external threat. It was agreed that British Forces would remain in Belize after Independence for an appropriate period, under arrangements to be made in an exchange of notes between the two governments on the attainment of Independence by Belize. At the same time the British Government would provide military training, aid and assistance including the provision of training teams and loan service personnel to assist in the development and growth of the Belize Defence Force. The Belize Government for its part would make available training areas for use by British Forces as required.

3. It was further agreed that certain countries in the region would be invited to participate in arrangements with the United Kingdom under which, in the event of armed attack against Belize externally organized or supported, or the threat of such an attack, they would consult together to consider what measures should be taken in relation to such an attack.

4. These arrangements should be viewed in the context of Belize's membership of the United Nations and of the Commonwealth and against the background of the international support already expressed for Belize's Independence within its traditional and existing borders.

5. Her Majesty's Government and the Government of Belize consider that these measures provide a sound basis for the future security and territorial integrity of Belize.

6. A simultaneous announcement is being made in London.

*(Breakdown, Vol. 5, Numbers 3 & 4, 1981, pp. 7 & 9. See too The Belize Sunday Times, Vol. No. 3230, 29 July 1981, p. 6)*