

Annex-VII

*Honourable Presidents and Prime Minister,
Distinguished Members of the Delegations,*

I have the great pleasure of attending the ECO Summit as a member of the new Government which has recently been formed in Turkey.

As far as I am concerned ECO is a familiar Organisation. Since 1968 I have participated in these activities either as member of the Technical Committee or as a Chairman. Today, I feel very happy to participate in this Summit as the representative of my Government.

I would like to stress that our government attaches great importance to developing our relations with the regional countries both bilaterally, as well as multilaterally.

We have had always very close relations with our Iranian and Pakistani brothers, based on mutual friendship and understanding. With the newly independent Republics of Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan we have very close cultural and linguistic ties which date back to history. Today the conditions are appropriate for developing close cooperation with all of them including Tajikistan for their economic progress. I feel extremely happy to meet the distinguished representative of these brotherly and friendly republics in this Summit meeting. ECO has taken a very wise decision for expansion by accepting these republics as members.

Now, I would like to brief you on the meeting of the Council of Ministers which we were happy to host ten days ago in Ankara. First, I would like to emphasize that the recent Council of Ministers meeting was very helpful in increasing the solidarity and cooperation opportunities among the ECO Member Countries. It was our great pleasure not only to have the meeting in Turkey where important decisions like the expansion of the ECO have been taken, but also to host the distinguished Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Iran and Pakistan.

As is known, the Second Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers was held in Ankara on February 5-6, 1992 with the participation of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries and the representatives of the ECO Secretariat.

Following the opening statements of the Ministers, the Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organisation presented a report on the activities of the organization, in accordance with Article 29 of the Treaty of Izmir.

With regard to the establishment of the ECO Investment and Development Bank, establishment of the ECO Shipping Company and conversion of the ECO Reinsurance Pool into an ECO Reinsurance Company, the Council decided that the relevant Experts/Committees should meet not later than the end of March 1992 and finalize the three projects.

The Council adopted the report of the sixth and seventh meetings of the Council of Deputies, approved the 1992-93 budget, decided that the Audit for the year 1990-91 and 1991-92 should be held in July 1992 and the next meeting of the ECO Award Committee should be

held in Tehran in the last week of September, 1992 to finalize ECO Award for the year.

The Council further adopted the report of the Second Meeting of the Regional Planning Council which was held in January 27-28, 1992 in Tehran along with the Calendar of Events for the year 1992, took note of the guidelines relating to the working procedures for the Technical Committees, approved in their last meeting, and decided that in the Technical Committee meetings, member countries should assure that their delegation has the necessary expertise and they should conform to an appropriate level; the calendar of events should be adhered to as far as possible; member countries should make sure that at least ten days notice is given to the host country regarding the confirmation of postponement of an agreed meeting.

The Council also considered one of the important agenda items, the applications of new members to the ECO and decided to accept the admission of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The Ministers instructed the Council of Deputies assisted by the Secretary General of the ECO and legal experts to draw up by June 1st, 1992 the texts of the Agreements to be signed with the new members.

Turkey conveyed the request of the TRNC authorities for association with the ECO. The Council of Ministers instructed the Council of Deputies to examine the request and to submit a report on the matter to the Summit Meeting in Tehran.

The Council also decided to set up a new Committee on Narcotics Abuse Control.

The meeting was closed with the decision that the third meeting of the Council of Ministers is to be held in January or February 1993 in Pakistan.

Before concluding my remarks, I would like to convey my sincere thanks to the Iranian authorities for organizing such an important Summit Meeting and the hospitality they have extended to us.