

No. 18343

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**MULTILATERAL**

**Protocol to the Treaty concerning the Permanent Neutrality  
and Operation of the Panama Canal. Done at Washing-  
ton on 7 September 1977**

*Authentic texts: Spanish and English.*

*Registered by the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States,  
acting on behalf of the Parties, on 13 March 1980.*

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**MULTILATÉRAL**

**Protocole au Traité concernant la neutralité permanente et  
le fonctionnement du canal de Panama. Fait à Wash-  
ington le 7 septembre 1977**

*Textes authentiques : espagnol et anglais.*

*Enregistré par le Secrétaire général de l'Organisation des États américains,  
agissant au nom des Parties, le 13 mars 1980.*

## PROTOCOL<sup>1</sup> TO THE TREATY CONCERNING THE PERMANENT NEUTRALITY AND OPERATION OF THE PANAMA CANAL<sup>2</sup>

Whereas the maintenance of the neutrality of the Panama Canal is important not only to the commerce and security of the United States of America and the Republic of Panama, but to the peace and security of the Western Hemisphere and to the interests of world commerce as well;

Whereas the regime of neutrality which the United States of America and the Republic of Panama have agreed to maintain will ensure permanent access to the Canal by vessels of all nations on the basis of entire equality;

Whereas the said regime of effective neutrality shall constitute the best protection for the Canal and shall ensure the absence of any hostile act against it;

The Contracting Parties to this Protocol have agreed upon the following:

*Article I.* The Contracting Parties hereby acknowledge the regime of permanent neutrality for the Canal established in the Treaty Concerning the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal<sup>2</sup> and associate themselves with its objectives.

*Article II.* The Contracting Parties agree to observe and respect the regime of permanent neutrality of the Canal in time of war as in time of peace, and to ensure that vessels of their registry strictly observe the applicable rules.

*Article III.* This Protocol shall be open to accession by all states of the world, and shall enter into force for each State at the time of deposit of its instrument of accession with the Secretary General of the Organization of American States.

<sup>1</sup> The Protocol, which was opened to accession to all States on 1 October 1979 (i.e., the date of entry into force of the Treaty) by deposit of the relevant instrument with the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, entered into force in respect of the following States on the date of deposit of their respective instruments of accession, in accordance with article III:

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of accession</i>
Viet Nam .....	6 November 1979
Bolivia .....	7 March 1980

<sup>2</sup> See p. 177 of this volume.