

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
COMMITTEE ON HEMISPHERIC SECURITY

OEA/Ser.G
CP/CSH/INF.54/06
26 October 2006
Original: Spanish

REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEMISPHERIC SECURITY
ON THE SEVENTH CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF DEFENSE
OF THE AMERICAS

Managua, Nicaragua

October 1 to 5, 2006

(Presented by Ambassador José Luis Velásquez, Permanent Representative of Nicaragua,
to the Committee on Hemispheric Security at its meeting of October 24, 2006)

REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEMISPHERIC SECURITY
ON THE SEVENTH CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF DEFENSE
OF THE AMERICAS

Managua, Nicaragua

October 1 to 5, 2006

(Presented by Ambassador José Luis Velásquez, Permanent Representative of Nicaragua,
to the Committee on Hemispheric Security at its meeting of October 24, 2006)

Mr. Chair of the Committee on Hemispheric Security,
Ambassador Javier Sancho Bonilla,
Esteemed staff of the General Secretariat,
Esteemed delegates of the permanent missions to the OAS,

This year, Nicaragua had the honor of hosting the Seventh Conference of Ministers of Defense of the Americas, held from October 1 to 5, 2006. It was attended by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Mr. José Miguel Insulza, and by the Ministers of Defense, Ministers of Public Security, Ministers of Justice, and delegations of the Western Hemisphere.

The central topic of the Conference was hemispheric and subregional cooperation. The heads of delegation adopted a Declaration of Managua, in which they recognized the need for continued joint efforts by our countries at the bilateral, subregional, and hemispheric levels in confronting scourges such as terrorism, transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, etc.

They also identified as an essential condition for strengthening relations among our countries the adoption and implementation of OAS confidence- and security-building measures. They urged those member states that had not yet done so to ratify the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions.

They expressed their will to strengthen the OAS Committee on Hemispheric Security and to further promote agreements on security and defense among our countries that would contribute to the development of the inter-American security system.

The heads of delegation supported Nicaragua's initiative to create the International Humanitarian Demining Center and recognized progress in humanitarian demining. Through this Center, it will be possible to share expertise and knowledge in the demining area with countries that are beginning to work in this field. In principle, the Center will have resources of up to four million dollars, judging from the material and human resources already in place.

The heads of delegation also supported Guatemala's proposal to develop a subregional security strategy.

The region reaffirmed its commitment to abide by the various United Nations Security Council resolutions to fight the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to support the United Nations Program of Action and the OAS Convention on the issue, in order to prevent, combat, and eradicate illicit trafficking in, the illegal use of, and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

The countries with smaller economies took the opportunity to call upon those with greater resources to cooperate in strengthening peace and security in our Hemisphere.

At the conclusion of the Conference, the Government of Nicaragua delivered the standard of the Seventh Conference of Ministers of Defense of the Americas to the Government of Canada, which will host the Eighth Conference in 2008. The delegation of Bolivia expressed interest in hosting the Ninth Conference, to be held in 2010.

Let me take this opportunity, on behalf of my Government, to thank all the countries in attendance at this Conference, and the Organization of American States, for their support.

Thank you.