



**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD
SECRETARIAT
Sub-Secretariat for Advisory Services**

0-1325

Washington, DC, 14 October 2008

Dear Mr. Chief of Delegation,

It is with pleasure that I wish to inform you that, according to what was stipulated in the declaration of the last Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas, the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) and the Organization of American States (OAS) were mentioned to participate in the studies organized by the Working Group consisting of the countries that organized this activity, as well as others that would like to participate on a voluntary basis, that should be carried out to arrive at means of cooperation that these organizations could offer to safeguard the institutional memory of the above mentioned Conference.

In this regard, I would like to inform you that since June of 2007 the IADB has been in contact with Canada, offering its experience and installed capacity to reach this objective. In relation to this, a study prepared by this organization was sent to the Executive Director of the Conference, Coronel J. Michael Snell, on 08 February of this year. The study clearly shows the possible forms of cooperation through which the IADB could support the Conference.

These forms of cooperation would be as follows:

- Establishment of a permanent web page to assure continuity, communication, and coordination among all member States.
- Establishment of a public and secure database to compile, classify, and maintain all pertinent documentation.
- Establishment of a permanent administrative unit to assure continuity and support to the Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas, whenever necessary.

As indicated, this background material is being sent to the Chiefs of Delegation about activities carried out by the IADB to support the Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas. Today there is a direct link, through the delegations that each Member State has accredited with the Council of Delegates, so much so that contacts with this ministerial entity constitute a natural relationship between organizations that deal with military and defense themes in the hemisphere.

Therefore, we ask for your support so that the IADB can receive a mandate to work on this important task that, by what it represents, makes us visualize a promising future for the Organization.

With nothing further and hoping for a favorable outcome, I extend to you the assurances of my highest esteem and consideration.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Elis Treidler Öberg". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Elis Treidler Öberg
Vice-Admiral, Brazilian Navy
Inter-American Defense Board
Chairman