



**AUG 25 2006**

Señor Avil Ramírez Valdivia  
Ministro de Defensa  
Ministerio de Defensa  
Antigua Mansion Luís Somoza  
Managua, Nicaragua

Dear Minister:

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I am writing to you, as the host of the VII<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Defence Ministers of the Americas (CDMA), to inform you that Canada would be pleased to host the VIII<sup>th</sup> Conference in the autumn of 2008.

We have long considered the Defence Ministerial to be an important forum in which we can discuss matters pertaining to the defence and security of our Hemisphere. As you know, successive Canadian governments have strongly supported the CDMA's objectives of strengthening regional defence and security relations through the use of mutual confidence and security-building measures.

By hosting the Conference in Canada, we can demonstrate our continuing commitment to the preservation and enhancement of that effort.

I look forward to discussing our plans with you when we meet at this year's Conference in Managua, in early October.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gordon J. O'Connor". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

The Honourable Gordon J. O'Connor, PC, MP