



IV CONFERÊNCIA MINISTERIAL DE DEFESA DAS AMÉRICAS

MANAUS - AMAZONAS - BRASIL 16 A 21 DE OUTUBRO DE 2000

CONCLUSIONS

(THEME – 3)

Theme: DEFENSE AND DEVELOPMENT: POSSIBILITIES FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION

Working Group 3 included delegates of the following countries: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ecuador, Granada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The United States of America was the coordinator of the group.

Item A: NATURAL DISASTERS: LESSONS LEARNED AND POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION

Rapporteur Country: Canada; collaborator El Salvador.

1. Delegates emphasized the importance of disaster preparedness--including early warning, planning, training, and preventive actions--to avert or mitigate the effects of natural disasters. Helping nations build their capacity to respond can be more cost effective than assistance after disaster occurs.
2. Planning and exercises at the national, regional, and international levels are necessary, including an exchange of experiences and lessons learned.
3. The armed forces have unique capabilities and may play a key role in national disaster preparedness and disaster relief efforts.
4. The efforts of the domestic interagency, non-governmental and private voluntary agencies, and the international community must be integrated for optimal results.
5. Regional exchanges involving nations whose eco-systems and natural disaster threats are similar would be beneficial.
6. Communication and public affairs play a vital role in planning for and responding to natural disasters.

Item B: STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MILITARY AND CIVILIANS

Rapporteur Country: Ecuador; collaborator Argentina.

1. Military and civilians need to work together to advance national defense, security, and development.
2. Civilian expertise in defense and security matters is critical.



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3. In carrying out their mission, armed forces must respect human rights and protect the constitution. Armed forces must also remain nonpartisan.
4. Civil-military relations are advanced through military participation in social-economic development projects (where appropriate), transparency in military budgets and defense administration, an informed public debate on defense policy, and education and training.

Item C: PROPOSAL FOR A DISTANCE LEARNING NETWORK LINKING DEFENSE ACADEMIES THROUGHOUT THE HEMISPHERE

Rapporteur Country: United States of America

1. Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies (CHDS) discussed current programs focused on education of civilians in defense and security issues. These include resident courses; education and defense seminars; senior leader seminars; on-site seminars; and outreach, research, and distributed learning.
2. CHDS also outlined plans to expand a web-based information sharing and curriculum-development capability.
3. Delegates welcomed CHDS programs and expressed interest in expanding participation in the Center's activities.

Item D: TRANSNATIONAL THREATS: NATIONAL EXPERIENCES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION

Rapporteur Country: Colombia

1. Discussion focused on transnational threats such as drug trafficking, arms trafficking, and terrorism, and the need for information sharing, control of precursors, control of arms trafficking and explosives, restricting the movement of and prosecuting armed terrorists, and proposing policies and legislation to control trafficking.
2. Delegates described how the armed forces of some countries may have a role to play in assisting traditionally police responsibilities, but their involvement must be determined by each individual country.
3. It was recognized that international cooperation and assistance are needed to confront the challenges of drug trafficking and other transnational threats.