

# CENTRAL AMERICA'S APPROACH TO SECURITY INTEGRATION

*Federico Breve-Travieso*

Director of FUNDEMOS

Former Defense Minister of Honduras

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# CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES AND MILITARY INTEGRATION

- Challenges of the Nineties
  - End of East-West confrontation
  - Extreme poverty, corruption, illiteracy, economic growth
- A New Set of Rules
  - Protocol of Tegucigalpa
  - CFAC
- Unity and Understanding
  - Working together
  - Side effects of progress

# CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES AND MILITARY INTEGRATION

- Emerging Threats
  - Transnational nature
  - No containment
  - Surpass national capabilities
  - Thrive on poverty
- Joint Efforts
  - Internal and regional
  - Modernization process
    - military-civilian relations

# CLIMATE OF TRUST IN THE REGION

- Confidence Building Measures
  - Letter of Creation of the Americas
  - Presidential Summits
    - Political will- a catalyst?
  - Recognition of a Common Enemy
    - Acceptance of threats
    - Increased activities and control
  - Armed Forces and Civil Society
    - Rapprochement

# CLIMATE OF TRUST IN THE REGION

- Difficulties to Overcome
  - Different Points of View
    - Position adopted by Costa Rica and Panama
  - Information Sharing
    - Weak link
    - Essential for success

# CLIMATE OF TRUST IN THE REGION

- Balance of Forces
  - From initiatives to plans
  - Foot dragging
- Territorial Disputes
  - Border issues
  - Risk of war or political connotations
  - An excuse to continue arms race

# GUIDELINES GOVERNING INTEGRAL AND COOPERATIVE ACTION

- Stability and Governance
  - Political and economic integration
  - Power groups and status quo
- Presidential Summits, Declarations and Treaties
  - Effective tools to spread message and elicit response
- Police and Armed Forces
  - The Police Commission and CFAC
  - Regional plans and SICA

# GUIDELINES GOVERNING INTEGRAL AND COOPERATIVE ACTION

- Inter Institutional Efforts
  - Regional arrest warrant, joint training, pkos, disaster relief, rapid reaction forces
  - Lack of operability
- A Standard Framework
  - Overcome asymmetry of laws
  - Benefits of regional treaty

# ADVANTAGES AND CAUTIONS ON CENTRAL AMERICA'S APPROACH TO COOPERATIVE SECURITY

- Benefits of Cooperative Action
  - Isolated actions will never suffice
  - Awareness of enemy's capabilities
  - Pooling and Optimization of Resources
    - Not limited to public sector
    - More cohesion
  - Sound Environment
    - Better opportunity to fight poverty and achieve social stability
  - Reduction of Illegal Immigration

# ADVANTAGES AND CAUTIONS ON CENTRAL AMERICA'S APPROACH TO COOPERATIVE SECURITY

- Precautions
  - Acceptance of a New Military Doctrine
    - Modernization process
    - Law enforcement vrs national defense
  - A Turn to the Left ?
    - Winds of change
    - Popular or populist doctrines

# CHARACTERISTICS OF A PARTNER OF CHOICE

- The Riddle to be Solved
- Basis for Finding a Partner of Choice
  - Definition of Partner
    - Common goals
    - Characteristics
  - Successful Initiatives
  - Operative Actions need a detonator
- Becoming Operational
  - Legal Framework
  - Ensuring Military Participation
  - Political Will
  - Extra Regional Partners

# FINAL COMMENTS

- Cooperative and Integral Security, A Must!
  - Effectiveness of joint efforts
  - Central America's role model
- Plan Centro America
  - Geopolitical advantages
  - Drug trafficking... the common denominator
  - Institutionalism of democratic system at risk