

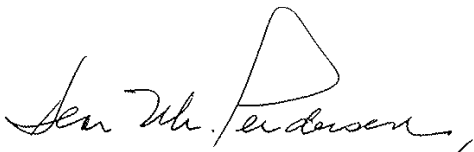
Embassy of Peru

Mr. Thor Pedersen
Folketing President
Copenhagen

MODTAGET
LEDELSESSEKRETARIATET

Dato 22/12-09 kl.

Stockholm, 16th December, 2009



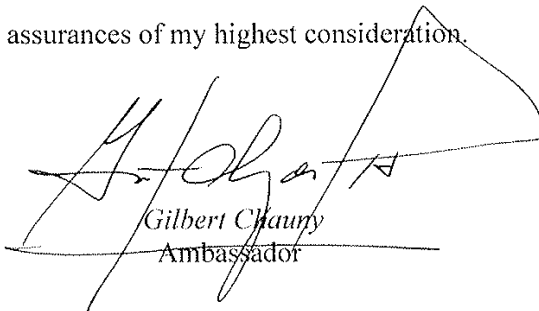
I have the honour to enclose the letter sent by Dr. Alan García Pérez, President of the Republic of Peru, to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defense, who attended the meeting of the UNASUR (Union of South American Nations) held in Quito last September, proposing a Military Non-Aggression Pact.

President García appeals for a regional commitment to decrease armament expenditures through a mechanism of transparency and confidence. He believes that UNASUR must implement effective policies to favor our people, strengthening peace and development, as well as fighting against poverty.

A number of Latin American leaders have expressed that they agree with President García's proposal, of which he has also recently informed H.H. Pope Benedict XVI in Rome.

Danish commitment with peace is well known, I am therefore convinced that members of the *Folketing* will pay proper attention to this Peruvian proposal.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.



Gilbert Chaury
Ambassador

"The Year of National Unity in the Face of External Crisis"

Lima, September 14, 2009

MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PARTICIPANTS AT THE GATHERING OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN UNION IN QUITO

The Union of South American Nations must consolidate itself with the issues and concrete actions that would legitimize the Union in the eyes of the people of this continent. That is, it must fulfill its main objective to reinforce peace as well as reduce poverty.

At present there is one urgent and vital issue that needs to be addressed in order to reach the aforementioned goals; that is the issue of halting an arms-race through, which can be done through a commitment to transparency and trust by all the members of the Military Non-Aggression Pact, a commitment which acknowledges a greater dynamic in UNASUR which can collectively guarantee such results. In the future, our countries will surely make up parts of a Force for Peace as well as an instrument for impeding any military conflict among us; a dynamic that can ensure a return to the situation preceding this armament activity without the intervention of institutions outside South America. This grand objective, however, as with the progressive creation of a Defense Force for South America that serves to eliminate any external territorial threat, are the key issues of our near future.

Indeed, we already have a South American Board of Defense in charge of the supervision of collaborative meetings involving external powers that, through means of technology or some other strategy, could potentially use their powers aggressively against another country in our region. It is urgent that this board's top priority be to secure transparency and processing of military expenditures as well as purchases in new resources and technologies. Any secrecy maintained among us is to the benefit of arms dealers and their agents of corruption. To these ends, in order to avoid an arms-race, and in order to further develop integration through trust by better applying the vast proportion of our resources toward the elimination of both poverty and the immense inequality that exists amongst the various social groups in our countries: Peru proposes that the South American Board of Defense study each individual country so that their total military expenditures can be made public, expenditures ranging from maintenance to installation and to other troop expenditures. This would reflect the transparency of new purchases. We must lay all our cards on the table. Without this element, no entity, be it UNASUR, with its five years of existence, or the South American Board of Defense, can hold any tenable significance.

In the last five years since the creation of UNASUR, our countries have spent a combined total of 156 billion dollars on our military sectors in addition to having acquired budgetary resources and credits rounding to a total of 23 billion dollars in additional new weaponry, cannonry, planes and ships. Our Armed Forces account for approximately one and a half million people comprised of different officials, troops, intelligence services and other related activities. Our combined military spending in 2005 was a sum of 26 billion, 900 million dollars. In 2006 it amounted to 29 billion, in 2007 it was 32 billion, in 2008 34 billion. This year, the amount could reach 38 billion dollars. This absurd trend needs to be contained.

It is important to note that, had we not allocated those 23 billion dollars to the purchases of new weaponry, and had our expenditures on routine operations and troops been reduced by 15% throughout those five years, we would have had the resources to pull no less than 30 million South Americans out of poverty (estimating that, during those five years, we would have allocated approximately 40 billion dollars towards helping these people).

If UNASUR and the South American Board of Defense be unable to work toward these goals, the people of this continent need to ask themselves, "What purpose, then, do these entities serve?"

Indeed, the biggest risk is that this situation could worsen. It is true that ideological barriers do divide us, and that we continue to clash over certain historical claims and differences. However, none of that should lead us irrationally to war. The only response to these divides ought to be a commitment to the Military Non-Aggression Pact, the decision of UNASUR to be a Force of Intervention, and a South American Defense Force to face any external territorial threats. Furthermore, our ideological differences ought to be reconciled with the sovereignty of each country, as well as with the adoption of peaceful and judicial procedures that would be used to solve our various controversies, procedures that we are already adopting.

If we do not act within the next five years, we will have spent 35 billion dollars on new machinery, and the cost of maintenance will have increased to more than 200 billion, just as the press and other global organizations have already predicted. Of course, new arms deals within the next three years have probably already been accorded, including the purchase of 11 conventional submarines and 1 atomic submarine, 67 warplanes, 135 combat helicopters, 350 tanks, 20 missile systems, and 15 multipurpose radar systems. Consequently, and with good reason, the South American people will reject any continued talks of integration whilst their countries continue this arms race in attempts to protect their internal power.

The meeting in Quito is of tremendous historical importance if trust, peace and integration are to be secured, and if this continent of ours is to be a land free of nuclear weapons. The continent places its trust in you and in the maturity of UNASUR.

Alan García
President of Peru