



Army / Belize Defence Force
 18 September – Visit and meeting with the Embassy of the United States in Belize - Deputy Assistant Secretary Ms. Kirsten Madison, Ambassador Robert Dieter and Ms. Susanne Kuester. Presentation was made regarding the mandate of the OAS/AZ.
 22 September – Meeting of Amigos del Pilar
 3 October – Attended meeting of Promoters of Xate from Belize and Guatemala in Ixlu, Petén, Guatemala
 8 October – Meeting of Money Changer Association
 24 October – Meeting of Help for Progress
 30-31 October – Visit by Ambassador Raúl Lago

12-13 July – Meeting and Special visit by Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Trade, with additional responsibilities for amateur sport Hon. Helena Guergis, Ambassador Kenneth Cook, Ambassador James Lambert to Arenal, Belize La Inmaculada School and OAS/AZ Office

14 July – Meeting of Help for Progress / REDAZCO
 23 July – Visit by Embassy of Brazil, Mr. Roberto Coutinho and Consul Etchebarne. Presentation was made regarding the mandate of the OAS/AZ.

30 July – Visit by Embassy of Canada – Major Villeneuve / Tenant Blair / Father Ricardo Klepac of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Benque Viejo

4 August – Meeting of OAS/AZ / Police Department – Benque Viejo / Customs Department / Immigration Department / Border Management / SAT / Immigration Department – Melchor de Mencos / Policía Nacional de Melchor de Mencos

8 August – OAS/AZ team meeting in Belmopan with OAS Secretary General Mr. José Miguel Insulza

20 August – Tripartite Meeting OASAZ / Belize Defence Force / Guatemala Army

21 August – Visit and meeting with IDB Representative – Ms. Caroline Clarke. Presentation was made regarding the mandate of the OAS/AZ.

22 de August – First visit and meeting with Acting British High Commissioner – Mr. Pat Ashworth and farewell to Mr. David Spires - Deputy British High Commissioner. Presentation was made regarding the mandate of the OAS/AZ.

28 August – Visit of First Secretary of the Embassy of Belize in Guatemala – Mr. Carlos Montero

11 September – Special Tripartite Meeting OASAZ / Guatemala Army / Belize Defence Force (Mapping of Adjacency Zone)

11 September – Visit and meeting with First Secretary from the Embassy of Japan in Guatemala - Mr. Takahiro Yamauchi. Presentation was made regarding the mandate of the OAS/AZ. Presentation was made regarding the mandate of the OAS/AZ.

18 September – Tripartite Meeting OAS/AZ / Guatemala

21 November – Meeting of Help for Progress / Mujeres Ixq'iq
 24 November – Visit and meeting with Military Attache. Lt. Col. Frédéric Roirand. Presentation was made regarding the mandate of the OAS/AZ
 Meeting with Prime Minister Hon. Dean Barrow and Cabinet to give a presentation regarding the mandate of the Mission of the OAS/AZ

GROUP OF COUNTRY FRIENDS

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|  Alemania |  Japón |
|  Argentina |  Jamaica |
|  Brasil |  Nicaragua |
|  Canadá |  Noruega |
|  Ecuador |  México |
|  El Salvador |  Panamá |
|  España |  Reino Unido |
|  Estados Unidos |  Suecia |
|  Honduras |  Turquía |



BULLETIN OF ACTIVITIES 2008

of the Office of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) in the Adjacency Zone, Belize - Guatemala.



Since the opening of the Office of the Secretary General Office of the OAS in the Belize-Guatemala Adjacency Zone (OAS/AZ) in July 2003, this special Mission for both OAS member countries has undertaken numerous activities within the mandate of the Agreement on the Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) to which both states and the OAS are signatories. The main activity of the Mission is in situ Verification – the length and breadth of the Adjacency Zone – carried out by officials from the OAS/AZ Office, and their results are widely known by the corresponding Ministries of Foreign Affairs and OAS authorities. This is a permanent activity, 365 days of the year, and cannot be quantified.

Similarly, but also under the CBM Mandate, the Mission undertakes voluntary resettlement projects for the groups of inhabitants located within the Adjacency Zone, and who request to be resettled. In these cases the Mission develops rural homes projects such as that of Nueva Judá (already completed in 2005) in Melchor de Mencos, Petén, and the Project for the Resettlement of the Community of Santa Rosa, in the Municipality of Poptún, Petén (successfully completed in April of 2008). This project constitutes a great success for the organization because it fulfils the mandate of two member states (Belize-Guatemala CBM) and the humanitarian mandate of the OAS, thereby increasing the quality of life of these persons.

Support to communities located within the Adjacency Zone and coordination and support to the local governments of Benque Viejo (Belize) and Melchor de Mencos (Guatemala) has also been a constant concern for the Mission. Likewise, the OAS/AZ Office has served as facilitator for Inter-institutional meetings and coordination as well as offering different types of support to various central government agencies of both countries, NGOs, Churches, etc., in areas such as forestry and reserves, conservation archaeological sites, bi-national commissions for Health in the Adjacency Zone, Immigration and Customs Officers, Police Forces, Armed Forces, Disaster Management organizations, Ministries of Education, and various institutions, among others.

The close communication and coordination developed with the Armed Forces of both nations has been another constant factor of the OAS/AZ Office. The support has continued in the technical and human resources area with the equipment for a System of Global Positioning (GPS) to the Belize Defence Force and to the Guatemalan Armed Forces. The Office has participated in several operational coordination meetings of the two Armed Forces, as well as coordinating the selection of meeting points for the Patrols undertaken by the respective Armed Forces along the Adjacency Zone. Similarly



on many occasions the offices of the meetings of the Mission have been the location for meetings between the military leaders of both countries and for other coordination meetings. Similar meetings and coordination have also been undertaken with the respective Police Forces who maintain permanent links in this sense with the Mission.

In the area of preparedness for emergencies both CONRED from Guatemala and NEMO from Belize establish their operations centres in the Adjacency Zone facilities. Support for the people from the communities is another activity of the mission, and this is undertaken in the form of receipt of various queries, statements, and requests which both the citizens of Belize as well as those of Guatemala present at the OAS/AZ Office. In this context we can also include the educational institutions of Benque Viejo and Melchor de Mencos which request the participation of the OAS for specific events which involve the gathering of boys and girls from the two countries. International cooperation and, in particular, the representatives of the Group of Friends are part of the duties of the OAS in the Adjacency Zone, not only because they are the countries with whose contributions the Mission continues, but also through their presence in the form of visits to the OAS/AZ Office. We would not wish to forget anyone, and therefore at the end of this document the names of each and every one of the Ambassadors and officials who have visited the Office are listed.

Finally, the Government authorities –whose mandates we strictly adhere to in the daily task of serving the States of Belize and Guatemala and their corresponding Adjacency Zone communities- have been the unique and outstanding figures throughout the year in the work of the Mission in their place as daily operational and orienting counterparts, via close communication and coordination with top level officials of both Foreign Ministries. Likewise, communication and visits by respective ministers of Foreign Affairs of Belize and Guatemala, Vice Ministers and Ministers from other areas of Government all constitute the best incentive and motivation for the continuation and improvement of our work.

For this reason firstly we wish to express on behalf of the

Department of Democratic Sustainability and Special Missions of the OAS our sincere gratitude to the respective governmental authorities of Belize and Guatemala for the confidence deposited in and the support provided to the OAS/AZ Office, without which it would not be possible to comply with the mandate which emanates from both States. We would also like to express similar gratitude to the Guatemalan Army and the Belize Defence Force –and in particular to their Commandants and officers- for the vital support and coordination which has developed in 2008. Also to the people who live in the Adjacency Zone communities, whom we serve on the ground and last, but not least, to the members of the Group of Friends as a whole and especially the Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Permanent Missions of Germany, Argentina, Belize (in Guatemala), Canada, Chile, Spain, the United States of America, Guatemala (in Belize), Mexico, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Turkey for all the support afforded to this Mission.

Chronology of Activities and Events at the Office of the Secretary General of the OAS in the Adjacency Zone:

Field Verifications: continually throughout 2008 - more than forty (40) were carried out.

Visits by the Representative of the Secretary General of the OAS for Belize-Guatemala Matters: continually throughout 2008.

18 January – Meeting of Help for Progress / OXFAM / RE

DAZCO

18 January – Meeting of Friends for Conservation and Development / OAS/AZ

31 January – Visit and meeting with the Ambassador of Mexico to Belize – Mr. Luis Lopez Moreno.

4 February – Visit and meeting with Military Attachés of the Federal Republic of Germany and Canada

4 March – Visit and meeting with Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation – Hon. Manuel Heredia and CEO - Mr. Michael Singh

9 March – OAS/AZ attended meeting of Ministries of Archae-

ology BZ/GT and declaration of Archaeologists Without Borders in Sta. Elena, Petén and closing at Yaxha (Guatemala)

28 March – Visit and meeting with Minister of National Security – Hon. Carlos Perdomo

31 March – Visit and meeting with Ambassador of Canada – Mr. Kenneth Cook

2 April – Meeting of Support to Money Changers Association (ASCAM - Asociación de Cambistas)

7-8 April – Help for Progress / OXFAM / REDAZCO

15 April – Successful completion of the Resettlement of the Community of Santa Rosa - relocation of the 102 persons from Santa Rosa in the Adjacency Zone to Poptún, Petén Guatemala

16 April – Visit and meeting with United Kingdom of Great Britain - Parliamentary Under-Secretary Foreign and Commonwealth Office – Ms. Meg Munn

5 May – Meeting - Help for Progress

13 May – Meeting of Friends for Conservation and Development / CONAP

21 May – Visit and meeting with Mr. Baltazar Garcia of the United States Peace Corps

21 May – Visit by Military Attaché of United Kingdom of Great Britain Cor. Neil Salisbury and Minister of Defence in London - Dr. Andrew Whitfield. Presentation was made regarding the mandate of the OAS/AZ

27 May – Meeting of CONRED and Principals of Schools with high risk disasters (Guatemala)

28 May – Special meeting of Belize Defence Force and Guatemala Army

4 June – Meeting of Money Changer Association

9 June – Meeting of Mayors Melchor de Mencos(Guatemala)/ Benque Viejo del Carmen(Belize)/Arenal (Belize and Guatemala) and Principal of Arenal School (Guatemala) / OAS/AZ

10 June – Visit by Embassy of Brazil – Consuls Pedro Etchebame and Ms. Anna Treno. Presentation was made regarding the mandate of the OAS/AZ.

10 June – Visit by group of students of the International Relations Programme of Galen University in Belize

19 June – Meeting with Border Management Agency / CONRED / National Emergency Management Organization / Ministry of Health, Belize / Ministry of Health Melchor de Mencos, Guatemala / Policia Nacional Civil, Melchor de Mencos / Police Dept., Benque (Belize) Viejo / Consulate of Guatemala / SAT / Immigration Department of Belize / Customs Department of Belize

9 July – Meeting of Money Changer Association

11 July – Meeting of OASAZ/Mayor of Melchor de Mencos / Mayor of Benque Viejo to discuss the Adjacency Zone Arenal Soccer Field Project

11 July – Meeting of CONRED

