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Title: Bases for a National Defense Policy - Prologue

FOREWORD BY THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

Although national defense issues are the object of analysis in military academic environments and are part of political discourse, in our country there is a lack of an official publication that serves as a reference on the matter. Faced with this situation, we consider it convenient to have a document that, as other countries have done, informs society and the international community about the objectives and instruments of our National Defense.

This work, as its name indicates, is introductory and the basis for the future National Defense Book, and for the elaboration of the doctrines of each Force, which will imply the participation of different government agencies and the academic field specializing in The matter.

It is a very ambitious task, which will entail a collective effort of several years and significant coordination, for which reason the pertinent directives have been issued, and different bodies of the Ministry of National Defense are working on the project.

In this way, the Secretary of State complies with the express mandate of the Executive Power that attributed to it the setting of the National Defense Policy as a specific and own task.

We believe that this document will make it possible to fill an important information gap on one of the primary functions of the State, contributing to the dissemination of the foundations of our Defense Policy, both inside and outside the country, fostering the commitment of our compatriots around a It is a topic that belongs to everyone, which refers to the stability of our independent and sovereign State.

The end of the East-West confrontation has created an unstable international environment, the evolution of which is difficult to predict. While the risks of a global nuclear confrontation have been reduced, the old strategic predictability has also disappeared, taking its place with other risks and threats such as terrorism,

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ethnic and religious extremism, drug trafficking and access to weapons of mass destruction.

In this global picture of uncertainty, National Defense continues to be an important priority for all governments.

In our continent, the path of democratic institutions has contributed to reducing the possibilities of conflict between the countries of the area, allowing leaders with a legitimacy that emerged from the ballot box, to resolve their differences through dialogue and negotiation, instead of using the weapons resource. Thus, in recent years, different conflicts that had fueled rivalry and hatred between American brothers have been resolved peacefully, giving way to a new era of cooperation and understanding between peoples.

In Uruguay, with more than a century without being involved in external conflicts, work is being done to promote greater regional and continental integration. The Armed Forces participate with distinction in numerous peacekeeping missions in far away countries.

The tranquility abroad and the current Panorama in the region have led to questioning the issues of national defense, settling the discussion on the current role of the Armed Forces, mainly in certain academic forums and in the press.

In this social environment, any serious and responsible discussion on the issue is accepted, since we consider that national defense is one of the great issues of the country, that it constitutes a responsibility of society as a whole and not only of the Ministry of National Defense or of the Armed Forces.

Although it is the responsibility of the government to formulate a Defense Policy, we consider that it should be a State Policy, backed by the level of political leadership and by a broad social consensus. When it comes to the external security of a country, all sectors of State action are involved: Defense, Interior, Foreign Relations and Economics. It is a collective effort in which, although the Armed Forces have a significant role, the participation of other actors is also necessary.

In this paper, readers will find some references to the

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foreign policy of our country, for which it is necessary to clarify that it has not been our intention to interfere in the competences of other State Secretariats, but rather to highlight the importance of complementing all sectors of State action, to ensure the interests of our Nation.

In this sense, we have made all the references to Uruguayan foreign policy in a harmonious way with the postulates of the national foreign policy, avoiding to venture into issues on which there is no official position of the Foreign Ministry. This publication is a first approximation to the subject, which will be followed by another more complete one, for the preparation of which representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will surely participate.

At the end I want to reiterate that, with this publication, we present a. official document that has no precedent in our country and that exclusively represents the position of the Ministry of National Defense. We feed the hope that this will open the way to a frank and open national debate, on a subject of particular importance for the future of the Republic.

Dr. Juan Luis Storace
Minister of National Defense

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CHAPTER I: THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

1. The international scene

The world shows the existence of a single superpower, the United States of America, with the capacity to simultaneously play a preponderant role in the political, military and economic fields. With the largest economy in the world, its incidence is such that it is possible to relate the increase in its productivity, with the increase in international competition, and with the establishment of a higher productivity parameter for the world economy as a whole.

For its part, although Russia is no longer among the ten largest economies in the world, due to its military power and potential capabilities, it holds the category of power. In addition, it has had an outstanding participation in international security matters, the most recent example being the agreement reached in Kosovo with the intervention of Russian diplomacy.

Japan has a limited capacity to project its military power but it is also a power based on the size of its economy, the second in the world.

Although the European Union is not a country, its economic and political weight in the world system is fundamental, and the recent participation of NATO in the Balkans is a clear indication of the role of the military forces of the Atlantic Alliance in matters of security. of the European continent. Taken as a whole, the European Union is undoubtedly another of the major players on the international scene.

In Asia there are two giants whose populations gather more than two billion people: China and India. The population of the latter, with a growth rate greater than that of China, is expected to surpass it by the year 2035. The Chinese economy has been growing at an average of ten percent per year for the past nineteen years, And although it is currently facing some problems, everything indicates that it will be one of the great powers of the next century. As for India, it has begun a path of opening up its economy, which allows it to show very significant successes, for example, since 1992 it has been growing at a rate of six percent per year. These two countries will see the demand capacity of their inhabitants grow, particularly in food matters, which will lead to an increase in the countries' agri-food production

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food producers, and the capacity of the ships that will transport these products, generating a very particular dynamic in international trade.

The United Nations Charter continues to be the basic legal framework for the international security system, and in accordance with it, the international organization has defined the necessary instruments to deal with conflict situations. They are preventive diplomacy, and the operations of establishment, maintenance, imposition and consolidation of peace.

In the strictly military aspect, the possibilities of a confrontation between great powers are minimal, the most probable hypothesis being that of a conflict between regional powers. The recent armed clashes in Kashmir are an example in this regard.

Although there are many States in the world that maintain difficult relations with their neighbours, it is possible to foresee that only in those countries with very powerful armed forces and massively deployed on their borders, can a military conflict be expected to arise at any time. It is possible to identify as the areas of greatest risk, the Middle East, the Korean peninsula, the Balkans and the Caucasus. In these places, the maintenance of the balance of forces and an active presence of the international community are fundamental factors to avoid the outbreak of warlike actions.

Other sources of tension result from phenomena such as religious fundamentalism; the gap between poor and rich countries, especially when they are neighbors; access to weapons of mass destruction, immigrant flows whether for political, religious or economic reasons; the growth of xenophobic sentiments; the corrupting power of drug trafficking; the rise of international crime; The terrorism; the degradation of the environment, and the fight for scarce goods such as water or energy sources.

These are phenomena that, although they can often be considered distant, have the potential to affect the International Community as a whole. Thus, new problems arise, such as the right of States to practice policies in their territory that not only destroy the environment, but also have negative effects on other States.
The threat of fundamentalist terrorism strikes in places that,

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Due to their distance from points of conflict, they were traditionally considered safe.

Since the end of the Cold War, the number of States facing serious problems of human rights violations or humanitarian catastrophes has been growing. The tensions generated by these situations have produced flows of refugees to neighboring countries and created internal conflicts in those countries (cases of Sudan, Somalia, Rwanda and the Republic of Congo).

These are conflict factors likely to produce an international or regional crisis, the solution of which is often beyond the possibilities of the countries involved, or a group of countries, requiring adequate responses from the international community as a whole, which challenge concepts and deeply rooted traditions.

2. A rapidly changing world

International society is witnessing changes that, due to their speed and profound impact on the life of humanity, can well be described as revolutionary. We refer to the changes produced in information technology and in the sphere of action of governments.

With the end of the Cold War, the advent of one of the most characteristic phenomena of today's world took place: globalization. This is based on the development of communication systems and transnational interests, and acts fundamentally in the fields of culture, economy and politics. The globalization of markets is one of its most outstanding notes, and the control that States can or should exercise over information on the Internet, one of the issues that generates the most controversy.

Computers, fax machines, fiber optic cables, and satellites have accelerated the flow of information across borders, paving the way for open societies. No one can predict how information will change the traditional spheres of state power, but certain themes have begun to emerge. One of them is that access to technological information is a prerequisite for economic growth in most countries. Another is that global communications have become a way of transmitting

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interests, cultures and values.

The application of information to warfare produces new and unimaginable possibilities on the battlefield. The intervention of the allied forces in the Gulf War and the recent NATO military action in the Balkans, with technologies and weapons that until very recently seemed limited to the field of science fiction, have filled the entire world with astonishment.

Regarding government action, it can be seen that the power of central governments is in decline throughout the world. Power is increasingly transferred to regional and local governments, and these in turn come under increased pressure from a better-informed public.

It is also possible to appreciate that globalization has exposed the insufficiency of the Nation-State, whose function must be redefined.

There is also a push for privatization, through the transfer to individuals of many of the activities previously carried out by governments, in an effort to reduce their deficits and at the same time improve the services offered to citizens. Parallel to the decline in the power of governments, there has been a growth in the power of transnational corporations, although this has not affected the ability of governments to mobilize resources in the event of a threat to national interests.

3. The regional picture

In Latin America, the signing of treaties and bilateral dialogue has traditionally been the instrument chosen by our peoples to resolve their conflicts.

Since the end of the Cold War, the perception of external military threats to the continent, on which continental military cooperation relations were based, has disappeared, so the threats are defined by each State based on the regional situation, and no longer of the East-West confrontation that characterized the Post World War II period.

New threats are generally more related problems

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with internal security than with defense, such as terrorism, drug trafficking, international organized crime, and environmental problems. These have a very different incidence in each country, and for this reason it is very difficult to reach a common perception.

Currently, South America exhibits a very important process of economic integration, a strengthening of democratic governments, the peaceful solution of old border conflicts between neighboring countries, and a progressive decrease in arms spending, all of which means that the possibilities of a war conflict in the region are very low. Thus, we can appreciate that the level of military spending in Latin America has been gradually decreasing, reaching approximately 2% of GDP, one of the lowest in the world.

Although some countries present situations of internal tension, this has not generally translated into difficulties with their neighbours, but rather they are restricted to the strictly national sphere. Despite this, it cannot be ruled out that some of these situations could eventually lead to international conflicts.

Within the Organization of American States (OAS), the Committee on Hemispheric Security has played a very important role, promoting measures of mutual trust that allow old fears to be overcome, and prioritizing dialogue as a method to overcome possible difficulties. In this regard, we must cite the Declarations of Santiago, of 1995 and of San Salvador, of 1998.

The Summit of the Americas II, in April 1998, assigned the Committee on Hemispheric Security to study measures aimed at strengthening institutions related to continental security.

Latin America was declared a zone free of nuclear weapons, from the Tlatelolco Treaty of 1967, which prohibits nuclear weapons and suspends investigations into the military application of nuclear energy, at the time the Treaty entered into force.

In order to strengthen the integration and cooperation process, the promotion of trust between countries is of fundamental importance. To this end, the so-called "Mutual Confidence Measures" are an essential instrument, which in the military sphere are designed to mitigate the perceptions of mutual threat and to avoid situations that by surprise or

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mistake, produce a crisis. Their function is basically preventive, and they are not restricted to the Defense sector, but can also occur in economic or political matters. These measures include combined exercises, periodic meetings between military authorities, the exchange of personnel, technical and scientific cooperation in projects of common interest, and the exchange of professional publications.

For their part, the Member States of MERCOSUR -Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, along with Chile and Bolivia- have created the Mechanism for Consultation or Concertation, with a view to reaching regional agreements not only in economic or commercial matters, but also in other respects.

In Ushuaia, in July 1998, the Presidents of the member countries of MERCOSUR, Chile and Bolivia declared their countries a Zone of Peace. It was agreed that the area would be free of weapons of mass destruction, the desire to consecrate the area as free of mines was highlighted, the strengthening of consultation mechanisms was promoted, the encouragement of cooperation for the peaceful and safe use of energy nuclear and special science and technology, and declared peace as a fundamental instrument in the integration process, among other important measu

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CHAPTER II: OUR COUNTRY

1. The geographical scope

The Eastern Republic of Uruguay is located in the southern hemisphere, between parallels 30 and 35 south latitude and meridians 53 and 58 longitude west.

The land surface is 176,215 square kilometers and the internal waters, territorial sea and economic zone. (ZEE) occupy an area of 149,093 square kilometers. Once the edge of the continental shelf is confirmed, this surface will expand beyond the terrestrial area. Uruguay limits to the north and northeast with the Federative Republic of Brazil and to the south and southwest with the Argentine Republic.

The limits with the Federative Republic of Brazil were established by several treaties, although the most important one continues to be that of October 12, 1851. It was followed by the Treaties of 1909, on the Merín Lagoon and the Yaguarón River, of 1913, on the Arroyo San Miguel, and of July 21, 1972, which established the maritime lateral limit between both States.

The Uruguay River Treaties were signed with the Argentine Republic in 1961, and the Río de la Plata and its Maritime Front Treaties in 1973, which definitively established the limits between the two countries.

The smooth topography of the Uruguayan territory facilitates communications of all kinds as well as knowledge and control of it.

The subsoil of Uruguay is an extension of the geological formations of southern Brazil. The Precambrian terranes that begin at the Yaguarón River and predominate south of the Río Negro constitute an area dominated by rounded hills and low hills. The highest point in the country is Cerro Catedral in the Sierra Carpa with 514 meters.

The Cenozoic sedimentary cover forms an arc that begins in the Laguna Merín Basin, and continues through the Atlantic Ocean, the Río de la Plata and part of the Uruguay River in its final stretch. It is the zone of the plains that presents diverse characteristics depending on the sediments, the slopes and their evolution. To the South of the Country there are hundreds of kilometers of beach.

Several rivers cross the country, most of them are tributaries of the

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Uruguay River, 1,600 kilometers long, from its beginning in Brazil to its mouth in the Río de la Plata. Among the most important tributaries are the Cuareim, Arapey, Daymán, Queguay and Negro rivers.

Although the Uruguayan territory is located in the portion of the temperate zone close to the tropics, its climatic characteristics derive from the permanent dependence - facilitated by the lack of elevations - on the -, of warm and humid air masses of the Atlantic anticyclone, as well as on the fresh and dry from the South Pacific anticyclone.

The passage of the fronts facilitates the existence of a rainfall that goes from 900 mm in the southwest to 1300 mm in the northwest corner.

The highest levels of frost (30 days per year) are recorded in the center of the country, while the lowest (20 days per year) take place towards the southwest of the country.

Its population is 3,151,600 inhabitants, of which 89% live in urban areas and the rest in rural areas.

The capital Montevideo concentrates almost half of the country's population, with 1,330,440 inhabitants.

The economically active population is 1,474,900 people, or 58.1% of the total population.

The annual population growth rate is 6.8 per 1,000 inhabitants.

2. Infrastructure

Uruguay has a well-maintained highway system, the center of which begins in the capital and main port of the country.

There are three international bridges that unite the country with Argentina, and the project to build a bridge that unites the cities of Buenos Aires and Colonia, which are approximately 36 kilometers away, is currently being considered by both parliaments.

Four main highways link Uruguay with Brazil.

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The railway system represents an option for the transport of cargo and extends through 3,000 kilometers of railways.

3. Productive activity

Uruguay has 4.7 hectares of fertile land for pasture or farm, per inhabitant, which represents a ratio six times higher than the world average. The percentage of land devoted to natural production is 85%, one of the highest in the world.

The economic potential of the country is multiplied when the wealth of its natural resources is considered. It has appropriate areas for agriculture, livestock, forest production, fishing and mineral exploitation.

The production of food, leather and wool generates 55% of exports.

Currently there are 25 million sheep, 11 million cattle and 1.9 million horses.

Ten years ago, the country began an ambitious afforestation program that has exceeded the initial goal of 200,000 new hectares of tree plantations.

Many aspects of the national economy have achieved international recognition for the quality of their products, gaining new markets. Among these products are textiles, furs, leather, rice, fish, dairy products and wines.

The services sector has also experienced significant development in recent years, with a clear trend in the economy in that direction.

Uruguay has six overseas and fluvial commercial ports: Montevideo, Nueva Palmira, Fray Bentos, Colonia, Paysandú and Juan Lacaze. The movement of cargo in the main maritime terminal - Montevideo - exceeds 150,000 containers and increases in the order of 20% per year.

The port of Nueva Palmira moves refrigerated cargo and soon also general cargo and containers. The port of Fray Bentos is

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prepares to move the products of forestation among others, from the year 2001.

One of the large regional projects is the conditioning of the Paraguay-Paraná waterway, with 3,442 kilometers, which ends in the Uruguayan port of Nueva Palmira. This project reduces by about 10 days the 36 that the old one implies from the Bolivian-Paraguayan-Brazilian interior to the Río de la Plata.

Linked to the financial policy is that of the Free Zones, mainly from 1987 when it is established that the Executive Power may order the establishment of the regime in any area of the country.

4. International Relations

Uruguay is fully integrated into the International Community, bilaterally through Embassies and Consulates, and through different international organizations, the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

Since March 26, 1991, the date of the signing of the Treaty of Asunción, Uruguay is part of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) together with Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. With a population of more than 200 million inhabitants, the ultimate goal is the establishment of a common market in the region.

The Ouro Preto Protocol, signed in 1994, established the administrative headquarters of MERCOSUR in Montevideo.

Since the dawn of its history, Uruguay has traditionally been a country of principles in terms of its international relations.

Non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries, free self-determination of peoples, the need to resolve international disputes through dialogue and negotiation by peaceful means - especially jurisdictional - multilateralism and the establishment of broad diplomatic relations above ideological conditioning, they have characterized Uruguayan foreign policy. For our country, the only guarantee for a peaceful coexistence with the rest of the Nations is the firm, unconditional and full application and respect of the principles of International Law.

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Our foreign policy has consequently been a policy of principles and not of ideologies. His task was and continues to be, to defend the image of the country beyond its borders due to the firmness and clarity of its convictions, particularly with regard to the norms of International Law, which essentially constitutes the defense of our own identity and our own subsistence.

The unrestrained defense of human rights, their scrupulous respect at home and the fight for a universal system, is also an essential principle of our country's foreign policy.

Consequently, Uruguay's international policy has always been at the service of human beings and their eminent dignity, justice, cooperation, peace and international security. This last aspect, in particular, has become a constant concern of our country, demanding on our part a permanent effort to cooperate in the task of reducing conflict in the world and seeking lasting reconciliations.

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CHAPTER III: NATIONAL INTERESTS

1. Primary Interests

They are the ones that are of fundamental importance for the survival of the country.

They have been defined as those for which a people recognizes itself necessary in its unity and uniqueness, for which it exists and claims to have to live. They are permanent.

The primary interests of the country are the following:

to. maintain national sovereignty and state independence.

b. preserve its territorial integrity

c. protect the life and liberty of its inhabitants.

d. protect their cultural identity

and. preserve the democratic republican form of government and the Rule of Law enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic.

2. Strategic Interests

They are those that, although they do not affect national survival, contribute to ensuring the primary interests of the country.

They have less permanence than the latter, since they have a greater relationship with elements of the strategic situation that are normally variable.

They are the following:

to. maintenance of international peace and security

b. ensure the economic and social development of the country

c. preserving the environment

d. project and promote the presence of the Uruguayan State in the

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Antarctic Continent, as well as maintaining the Scientific Base "General Artigas"

and. promote scientific research in the country and the acquisition of technology

F. deepen relations of cooperation, trust and friendship with the other countries of the region

g. maintain the constant presence of the Uruguayan State in maritime spaces under national jurisdiction.

3. Humanitarian interests

There are situations in which, although the primary or strategic interests of our country are not affected, on the other hand, fundamental values of humanity are at stake, such as solidarity or respect for human life.

They generally occur on the occasion of natural catastrophes, or conflicts for ethnic or religious reasons. In these cases it is possible to use resources assigned to national defense, even though the situation is not directly related to the primary or strategic interests of our country.

For this, a political decision of the national authorities will be necessary, and in its case also, the corresponding consent of the parties involved and of the International Community, which will ensure the legitimacy of the operation.

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CHAPTER IV: CONCEPT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

National Defense should not be confused with Security, although both concepts are closely related.

Security is the situation required for an institutional legal order to exist within the national territory, in accordance with the Constitution and the Laws of the Republic. Includes all acts intended to ensure the preservation of said order, covering the maintenance of internal tranquility, social peace, cultural level, the necessary conditions for the normal development of economic activities, and the maintenance of national sovereignty and independence. of the State.

In this last aspect, Defense appears as a more restricted concept than Security, since it only refers to the maintenance of the conditions that allow the country to ensure its primary interests, in the face of possible threats or actions from abroad. Defense thus constitutes the external facet of Security, and therefore the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and National Defense act in this area. Notwithstanding this, in those situations in which the competent national bodies so provide, the Armed Forces will support the internal security forces.

Security is a concept that encompasses Defense. In order for Security to exist, Defense is not enough, but must be added to it the socioeconomic development of the country and the maintenance of internal order. Both one and the other correspond to the level of political decision.

Uruguayan legislation conceptualizes National Defense as the use of the Armed Forces to defend honor, independence, peace, the integrity of the territory and the political organization given by the constitution. This is how the Organic Laws of the Army (No. 15,068), of the Navy (No. 10,808) and of the Armed Forces (No. 14,157 modified by No. 15,808) have defined it.

Defense can be considered as an activity or as a structure. As an activity, National Defense seeks to maintain the external security conditions necessary for the country to ensure its primary interests. As a structure, it is the organization and the set of material and human resources destined to the fulfillment of the previously defined activity.

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National Defense is an essential task of the State as only it can organize and use force to protect its interests.

Like all essential tasks, it is provided *uti universi,* that is, to all the inhabitants of the country globally considered, and carried out by the State itself.

It has the particularity that it is a task not only carried out through the permanent military organization, but also the citizens of the Republic, who in case of war or internal commotion, are obliged to serve in the Armed Forces. This is established by the laws on Military Instruction (No. 9,943) and Passive Defense (No. 10,071).

It constitutes an integral activity of the State insofar as it involves the use of all necessary national means in order to avoid and eliminate threats and resolve conflicts. In this sense, it includes a scope of competence that exceeds the limits of the strictly military.

Within the framework of the pertinent constitutional norms, the Ministry of National Defense and the Armed Forces are, by express legal provisions, the bodies of the Executive Branch competent to organize and coordinate the defense of the country, as well as to contribute to deterrence through the preparation and maintenance of a Military Force.

The spatial sphere of the State whose defense is the responsibility of the Ministry of National Defense is that comprised by the continental and insular territory, the territorial sea, the airspace corresponding to said zones, the exclusive economic zone and the continental platform.

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CHAPTER V: OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE

For the purposes of developing a national defense policy, it will be necessary to establish the objectives of National Defense, which naturally will be closely related to the Primary Interests and the Strategic Interests of the country.

The following are established as National Defense objectives:

- o Preserve national sovereignty and the independence of the State.
- o Maintain their territorial integrity.
- o Generate the security conditions necessary to deal with external threats.
- o Support the internal security forces, in those cases in which provided by the competent bodies.
- o Promote the commitment of all citizens to Defense National.
- o Contribute to the promotion and maintenance of international peace.

Fulfillment of these Objectives will be obtained through an essentially dissuasive Defense Policy, based on the balanced development of national capabilities, and on the maintenance of military forces equipped and trained to dissuade, confront and neutralize external threats that arise.

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CHAPTER VI: CONDUCT OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE

The Constitution of the Republic establishes in its article 168 that the President of the Republic, acting with the Minister of National Defense or in the Council of Ministers, is responsible for the Superior Command of the Armed Forces.

The first task that the Constitution, since 1830, assigns to the Executive Branch (art. 168 number 1) is: *the preservation of order and tranquility in the interior* - which is normally attended through the Police - and security abroad, for which it is assigned *the superior command of all the armed forces* (number 2), the power to declare war, if arbitration or other peaceful means do not give results to avoid it (number 16) and take measures security prompts in serious and unforeseen cases of external attack or internal commotion (number 17).

The Ministry of National Defense is the political-administrative body that integrates the higher command of the Armed Forces, and that is in charge of implementing decisions through its administrative organization.

In accordance with Decree 574/74 of July 12, 1974, the Ministry of National Defense is responsible for matters concerning national defense policy; security abroad; what is related to national defense in matters attributed to other Ministries; and the organization, direction and administration of the Armed Forces.

Therefore, it corresponds to the political level, within the constitutional and legal framework, the leadership of the Armed Forces to obtain the objectives of national defense.

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CHAPTER VII: THE ROLE OF THE ARMED FORCES

Article 2 of Decree Law 14,157 of February 21, 1974, established that the Armed Forces must plan and execute the military acts imposed by national defense.

For its part, Law 15,808 of April 2, 1988 states that the Armed Forces have the fundamental task of defending the honor, independence, peace of the Republic, the integrity of its territory, its Constitution and its laws, and must always act under the superior command of the President of the Republic, in agreement with the respective Minister, in accordance with the provisions of article 168, paragraph 2, of the Constitution of the Republic.

In peacetime, the main purpose of the Armed Forces is to train, mobilize, equip and prepare its members for war.

In the face of an armed aggression, the country must use all available military power, seeking to define the conflict as quickly as possible and with a minimum of damage to the integrity and national interests, and try to create the most favorable conditions for the restoration of peace.

Military power will be given by the capacity of the Armed Forces, the potential resources of the Nation and the mobilizable reserves.

The Armed Forces must ensure an integration that optimizes their preparation and eventual employment, rationalize related activities and maintain a doctrine of joint action.

The end of the cold war and the Soviet bloc, the progressive settlement of differences in the closest environment of our country, seem to indicate a disappearance of the threats to peace and security in Uruguay.

However, it cannot be ruled out that some of the traditional forms of threat may arise, nor can the risk posed by new and diffuse forms of threat be ignored. These forms can, in turn, be combined with the traditional ones.

Threats such as illegal immigration, computer terrorism or drug trafficking, although at an initial level they are the responsibility of the

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police forces, can escalate to a higher level, and affect those assets whose guardianship the community has entrusted to the Armed Forces. In addition, these manifestations of instability can cause concern in neighboring countries, if they are not controlled in time, and awaken in them the intention of intervening where the causes of instability are not controlled, to prevent its spread.

In this perspective, it is essential to have Armed Forces capable of effectively controlling these outbreaks and exerting, both on their agents and on other countries, the necessary deterrent effect.

Within this framework, peacekeeping missions acquire a singular importance. The preaching of our country in favor of peaceful solutions, in accordance with International Law and in the structure of multilateral organizations, acquires a concrete, tangible content, in such operations. We don't just affirm the solutions verbally, we contribute to them on the ground.

This coherence between what is said and what is done is a source of genuine respect. By thus enhancing the image of Uruguay, its security is also strengthened.

Prestige turns out to be to some extent a deterrent to attacks and, if they occur, summons the support of the international community. From this angle, participation in these operations is a key element to strengthen Uruguay's position in the international community, provided by the Armed Forces.

The nature of the new risks or threats implies an adaptation of the Armed Forces to these conditions. Since it is not possible to determine in advance the form in which the threats will materialize, a very flexible military organization is necessary, capable of responding to diverse and unexpected situations, often developed with advanced technological means.

The preparation and training of the troops must follow the same line with a permanent update and information. Threats are probably not going to be presented following the classic schemes.

For the same reason, intelligence, mobility, communications, coordination, speed of response, flexibility, general training and extensive technology,

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They will be, among others, important elements in the structuring of military power. The discipline and organization of the chain of command, always central elements, are especially so in operations with the aforementioned characteristics.

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CHAPTER VIII: DEFENSE POLICY AND POLITICS ABROAD

The Defense Policy of a country must necessarily be related to its Foreign Policy, since both complement each other. Uruguay has a clear vocation for peace, and through its defense policy it only seeks to protect national interests, without constituting a threat to other countries.

The fundamental principles of national Foreign Policy are respect for treaties, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, respect for international law, the peaceful settlement of disputes, the use of force only as a defense against aggression, and the self-determination of peoples.

Our Defense Policy is based on Armed Forces of an adequate structure and size to ensure reasonably dissuasive effects, and on a foreign service that acts preventively to obtain a peaceful solution to disputes that may eventually arise, within the framework of a appropriate and timely anticipation strategy.

Within these guidelines, it will be necessary to ensure perfectly defined limits that enjoy international recognition, and maintain a close relationship with neighboring countries and the international community, based on mutual trust and respect.

In particular, it is considered of special importance to maintain a very active presence of our representatives in the different forums, in order to internationally project the image of Uruguay as a sovereign country, respectful of International Law and the Rule of Law, and a permanent contributor, within of its possibilities, to international peace and security.

In recent years, with the deepening of economic integration processes, there has been a noticeable increase in cooperation ties in the field of the Armed Forces, among the countries of the region. Our Armed Forces maintain close relations with those of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay, holding coordination meetings and combined exercises periodically, as well as exchanges of Officers and information on common topics.

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In these cases, the Armed Forces have accompanied the integration processes initiated by the diplomatic representatives, within their sphere of competence, and in coordination with the organs of the Foreign Ministry.

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CHAPTER IX: DEFENSE POLICY

The National Defense Policy establishes the general guidelines to achieve the National Defense Objectives. It coordinates political, economic, military, social and scientific-technological factors, in order to face threats to the country's external security.

It is therefore necessary to establish in the first place, what are the probable threats from which the State will have to defend itself. The greater or lesser probability of the occurrence of these threats constitutes the foundation of the Defense Policy.

The identification of our potentialities and vulnerabilities will allow us to determine the different situations on which the Defense Policy should be based. In short, it is about establishing the way in which external agents, through threat or force, will be prevented from affecting the primary interests of the Nation.

The Defense Policy refers to those principles and norms of a general nature, which originated at the highest levels of leadership, have the consensus of social and political factors, and are intended to preserve the primary interests of the country.

In the elaboration of the Defense Policy of a State, the President of the Republic, the Ministry of National Defense, with its advisory and execution bodies; that of Foreign Relations; the competent bodies of the Legislative Power; State agencies whose activities may give rise to situations of foreign conflict, and other academic institutions specializing in Defense issues.

Participation in peacekeeping operations abroad is an active part of defense policy, to the extent that it contributes to ensuring the interests of our country.

Our Defense Policy must be essentially dissuasive, for which it will require that the potential adversary perceive that there is the capacity and the will to make him pay a higher cost than the benefits that he could obtain with his actions. It is a psychological outcome that is achieved by making the decision to act against a threat credible, backed by the media to do so.

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The purpose of this chapter is to state explicitly; and as a starting point for more in-depth subsequent developments, guidelines or general orientations in the matter, for which the following division by factors has been made:

1. Military Factor

a) The use of the Armed Forces will be guided by an essentially dissuasive policy, destined to maintain a state of credible enlistment of personnel and materiel, which allows facing and eventually neutralizing external threats that arise.

b) Identify possible threats to the primary interests of the country. Maintain permanently updated intelligence information on possible threats or risks to the primary interests of the country.

c) Periodically evaluate the operational structure, training and deployment of the Armed Forces, in order to ensure and adapt them to respond to eventual threats to the primary interests of the country.

d) Increase the capacity for joint operation. Regular participation of the three Forces in joint exercises. Increase inter-Force coordination in order to improve their command, control, communications, intelligence and information technology capabilities.

e) Strengthen the tasks of surveillance and control of land borders, internal waters, the territorial sea, the corresponding airspace, the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf.

f) Protect economic resources in internal waters, territorial sea, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf.

g) Keep lines of communication open.

h) Participate in peacekeeping operations according to the interests of the country.

i) Increase the combined operation capabilities of our Armed Forces with those of the MERCOSUR countries.

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j) Promote the periodic exchange of members of the three Forces; in order to promote mutual personal knowledge.

J) Promote the integration of the General Staff Courses at the strategic-operational level, of the three Forces, and of higher level military education, in a single teaching center.

k) Ensure the permanent updating of the teaching given in the Training Schools for Armed Forces Officers and in the other teaching centers dependent on the Ministry of National Defense, and its compatibility with the teaching given in the civil sphere .

l) Reorganize and strengthen the Joint Staff (ESMACO)

m) Promote the Mobilization System, in order to meet the needs in case of conflicts. Revitalize the National Mobilization Service provided for in current regulations, in accordance with current national needs. Periodically coordinate with the different Ministries and State agencies, their participation in an eventual general mobilization.

n) Implement a General Staff of the Minister of National Defense with the task of planning and advising the Secretary of State on matters within his competence.

2. Economic Factor

a) Assign permanent budgetary resources compatible with the enlistment that the Armed Forces must possess in order to comply with their obligations in terms of National Defense.

b) Guide the acquisition of equipment by the Army, Navy and Air Force in order to obtain material with multifunctional characteristics, ensure the standardization of equipment in the first stage within the three Forces, and later at the level of the Armed Forces of the MERCOSUR countries.

c) Coordinate the maintenance and repair of equipment common to the three Forces, tending to the centralization of said activity.

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d) Promote the centralization of the supply of the three Forces.

e) Strengthen the command, control, communications, intelligence and computer capabilities of the Armed Forces, through the acquisition of appropriate equipment. Coordinate among the Forces the acquisition of common use equipment.

f) Promote a rationalization of the operating expenses of Section 03 "National Defense", and use the funds obtained, in the improvement of the equipment of the Armed Forces.

g) Ensure the necessary resources to:

(1) Promote the presence of the Uruguayan State inside the Antarctic Continent.

(2) Improve the infrastructure, operation and research capacity of the "General Artigas" Scientific Base.

3. Scientific Technological Factor

a) Support scientific and technical research in order to consolidate sectors of knowledge that reduce the country's external dependence. Commit facilities and means of the Ministry of National Defense to assist in these activities, carrying out the pertinent coordination with the corresponding Ministries, Autonomous Entities and research institutes.

b) Ensure the participation of members of the Armed Forces in national bodies related to scientific research and technological development.

c) Promote the participation of personnel dependent on the MDN in scientific research tasks in Antarctica, interrelating with public and private, national and foreign organizations.

4. Political Factor

a) Deepen relations of cooperation, trust and friendship with the Armed Forces of the countries of the region. Promote the exchange of military personnel, meetings of authorities of the Armed Forces,

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combined operations, the exchange of information and professional publications, the participation in acts of commemoration of national dates of neighboring countries, the presence of national observers in the maneuvers of other countries, and technical and scientific research in areas of common interest.

b) Promote the active participation of our country in the construction of an international order based on the rule of law, which promotes peace and the sustained development of humanity. This implies an important presence in bodies such as the UN, the OAS Committee on Hemispheric Security, the Inter-American Defense Board, Presidential Summits, the Rio Group, the World Trade Organization, Meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and National Defense, and Forums. international academics.

c) Support initiatives aimed at eliminating weapons of mass destruction, antipersonnel mines, and bacteriological and chemical weapons. Promote the entry into force of basic standards in these fields. Support conventional arms reduction programs in the region.

d) Promote measures of mutual confidence in the MERCOSUR sphere.

e) Support the maintenance of the demilitarized zone status of Antarctica.

f) Deepen the coordination between the Ministry of National Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Relations in matters of defense policies.

g) Continue to participate actively through the Uruguayan Antarctic Institute, in the international decision-making process on Antarctica, in accordance with national interests in said area.

5.Social Factor

a) Keep the population informed about the activities of the Armed Forces.

b) Promote the awareness of the population about the importance of the Armed Forces for National Defense, about the functions that they fulfill for such purposes, and about the responsibilities of all

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citizens in relation to National Defense.

c) Promote the adherence of the population to the principles of peaceful coexistence among peoples, through their wide dissemination.

d) Promote cultural exchange between civil and military academic circles on Security and Defense Policies issues.

e) Collaborate in the solution of ecological and environmental problems.

f) Keep updated the identification of the Community support areas where it is most probable that the action of the Armed Forces will be required, select the means that will be used in case support is requested, and provide the personnel with the training and adequate equipment for the task.

g) Use the resources of the Armed Forces in support of the community, when the competent bodies are overwhelmed by the situation, and provided that this does not imply risks for the national defense as a whole.

h) Ensure the existence of an adequate legal framework for the intervention of the Armed Forces in actions to support the community, prior to their assignment to said tasks.

i) Assign extraordinary resources to the Ministry of National Defense in the cases in which the bodies dependent on it must carry out tasks in support of the Community.

j) Collaborate in the protection of the environment.

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CHAPTER X: THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

1. Competences

The national defense policy is the responsibility of the Ministry of National Defense; security abroad; cooperation in the maintenance and restoration of order, security and tranquility in the interior; the organization, direction and administration of the Armed Forces; the training, health and social security of Ministry officials; military justice and military constructions.

2. Organization

to. Government and administration bodies
- (1) Minister of National Defense
- (2) Undersecretary of National Defense
- (3) Cabinet of the Minister of National Defense
- (4) General Directorate of the Secretariat

b. Advisory and planning bodies (1) Board of
Commanders in Chief (2) Joint
Staff (3) General Mobilization
Service (4) General Directorate of
Defense Information (5) Eventual Courts of Honor

c. Execution (1)
- National Navy (2)
- National Army (3)
- Uruguayan Air Force

d. Reporting directly to the Ministry of National Defense (1) National
Directorate of Health of the Armed Forces (2) National
Directorate of Communications (3) National
Directorate of Meteorology (4) Center for
Higher National Studies (5) Supreme
Military Court (6) Institute
Uruguayan Antarctic (7) General
Directorate of Armed Forces Services (8) Superior Court of
Promotions and Appeals of the Armed Forces

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(9) Qualifying Commission for Common Services to the Forces Armed

(10) Directorate of Border Crossings

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CHAPTER XI: THE ARMED FORCES

1. The National Army

to. Mission

The National Army constitutes the branch of the Armed Forces organized, equipped, instructed and trained, responsible for planning, preparing, executing, and conducting the military acts imposed by national defense in the terrestrial environment, alone or in cooperation with the other components of the Armed Forces.

Its mission is to contribute to providing external and internal national security, within the framework of the mission of the Armed Forces, developing its capacity based on the anticipated requirements. Without detriment to its fundamental mission, the Army may support and take charge of development plans that are assigned to it, carrying out works of public convenience.

b. organic structure

The Superior Command of the Army is exercised by the Commander in Chief.

Four Army Divisions, the General Staff, the General Reserve, the education system, and the logistic support system report directly to the Commander-in-Chief.

c. Material resources

The Army has more than two hundred armored vehicles distributed in the Infantry and Cavalry arms.

Fire support is provided by fifty howitzers with calibers of 105 mm and 155 mm. To a lesser extent, it has multiple launch platforms with 40 122-mm tubes, 122-mm howitzers, and multipurpose vehicles.

Anti-aircraft protection is provided by Vulcan, Bofors 40mm, and IMI TCM-20 20mm anti-aircraft guns.

It is equipped with different weapons, which combined provide firepower in its different types and calibers. weapons are highlighted

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anti-tanks, Milan missiles, 106 mm recoilless rifles, 88.9 mm rocket launchers, and curved trajectory weapons, mortars, in their different calibers of 120, 81, and 60 mm.

Smaller caliber weapons include .50 heavy and .30 and 7.62 x 51mm MAG light machine guns, as well as heavy and light automatic rifles, and in limited numbers, 40mm grenade launchers.

Within the engineering material, the Army has 60 road construction machines of various origin, among which bulldozers, motor graders, backhoe loaders, compactors, etc. stand out.

Several sections of its endowment of bridges are installed, still maintaining the possibility of installing in the order of almost 200 meters of bridges. There is also the possibility of installing a dozen supply stations, both for water and electricity.

The existing tactical material complies with NATO specifications, being mostly mobile and portable.

d. Staff

Human resources are obtained through the Recruitment System based on the voluntary recruitment of citizens who are related to the Institution.

The standing force of the Army is made up of approximately 15,000 troops.

The senior staff is structured on the basis of a command corps and a service corps. The senior staff of the Command Corps is divided into five branches: infantry, artillery, cavalry, engineers, and communications. The service body is structured on the basis of three ranks: Support, Military Bands and Veterinary and Remonta Service, and Agricultural Engineers.

Junior personnel are contract volunteers, who enter the Army as soldiers, with opportunities for promotion to the sub-classes and non-commissioned officers.

2. The National Navy

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to. Mission

The essential mission of the National Navy consists in the defense of the Constitution and the Laws of the State, the territorial integrity and the maritime police of the Republic, in order to contribute to defending its honor, independence and peace.

b. organic structure

The Superior Command of the Navy is exercised by the Commander in Chief.

The Commander in Chief reports directly to the Fleet Command, the General Directorate of Naval Personnel, the National Naval Prefecture, the General Directorate of Naval Materiel, and the General Staff of the Navy.

c. Material resources

The Fleet Command brings together the Navy's combat equipment.

The Command of the Sea Forces, the Naval Aviation Command and the Command of the Naval Rifle Corps report to the Fleet Command.

The Command of the Sea Forces is made up of the Escort Division (frigate-type ships), the Patrol Division (fast attack and coast guard patrol vessels), the Services Division (service and support vessels) and the Mining and Countermining Division (warships of mines).

The Naval Aviation Command has an Anti-submarine Exploration Squadron, a Helicopter Squadron and an Instruction Squadron.

The Naval Rifle Corps is the amphibious force of the Navy and undertakes operations typical of amphibious combat.

In addition to the aforementioned units, the Navy has the ROU School Sailboat "Captain Miranda", which carries out instructional trips with each class of Midshipmen graduated from the Naval Academy.

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d. Staff

The superior personnel of the Navy is organized in the following bodies; General Corps, Corps of Electrical and Machine Engineers, Supply and Administration Corps, Prefectural Corps, Specialist Corps and Auxiliary Corps. The National Navy has 670 officers and 4,978 junior personnel.

The latter is divided into the following specialties: Weapons Administration, Artificer, Band, Camera and Kitchen, Communications, Construction, Electronics, Electricity, Rifleman, Maintenance (Aviation), Sea, Engines, Operations, Operations (Aviation), Maritime Police, Health and Professional Technician.

3. The Uruguayan Air Force

to. Mission

The Uruguayan Air Force is the branch of the Armed Forces that is organized, equipped and trained to plan, conduct and execute the acts imposed by the National Defense in relation to aerospace power.

b. organic structure

The Superior Command of the Air Force is exercised by the Commander in Chief.

The General Staff, the Personal Staff, the Secretariat Directorate, the Flight Safety Directorate, the Public Relations Directorate, the Economy and Finance Directorate, the National Directorate of Civil Aviation and Aeronautical Infrastructure report directly to the Commander-in-Chief. , the Operations Air Command, the Personnel Air Command, and the Services Air Command.

c. Material resources

Its capacity in terms of hunting and attack missions is given by Cessna, A-37 and Pucará IA 58 aircraft.

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It has an endowment of PC 7 Pilatus aircraft, with the possibility of carrying weapons platforms, and which allows the training of future combat pilots. The tactical air transport is equipped with Casa C 212, C 95 Bandeirante, Hércules C 130 and Brasilia C 120 aircraft.

The Air Force owns UH-1, Bell 212, Dauphine and Wessex helicopters.

The Cessna 206 aircraft allow liaison, health, survey and support missions to be carried out for other State agencies.

Pilots are trained in Mentor T 34 aircraft, which will soon be replaced by Aeromacchi SF 260 aircraft.

d. Staff

Currently, 530 officers and 2,400 subordinate personnel make up the institution's staff.

THANKS

The Minister of National Defense appreciates the valuable collaboration provided in the development and preparation of this document by the following Institutions and individuals.
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