

**AMERICAN  
DEFENSE CENTER**  
A PROGRAM OF THE CIVIC COUNCIL

December 15, 2008

To Congressman X  
XXXXXXX  
XXXXXXX

Dear Congressman X,

I am pleased to invite you to attend a luncheon on the important theme:

**CHINA'S RISING INFLUENCE IN LATIN AMERICA**  
*Strategic Implications for the United States*

The lunch will be held at Noon on Wednesday, January 14, 2008, at Charlie Palmer's Steak Restaurant, located at 101 Constitution Avenue NW.

Our speaker will be Dr. Francisco Gonzales, an expert on Latin American affairs from John Hopkins' School of Advanced International Studies.

Dr. Gonzales recently contributed a chapter to a book published by Brookings Institution Press: *China's Expansion into the Western Hemisphere: Implications for Latin America and the United States*, and has recently testified on the Hill about China's increased influence in Latin America. Dr. Gonzales will take questions after his presentation.

Dr. Gonzalez will cover a wide range of issues that impact US-China relations, from trade and investment policies being pursued by Beijing in Latin America, to the rising security risks posed to the United States by an increasingly aggressive Chinese foreign policy for our hemisphere.

The American Defense Center is concerned with these issues, as well as with specific security threats posed by rising Chinese influence at the Panama Canal, a waterway of continued strategic importance to the United States, and Chinese plans to secure an airbase in the region, especially at a time when both Russia and China are increasing military aid to Cuba, Venezuela and other unfriendly states in the region.

A complimentary sit-down lunch will be served, but seating is limited, so please call Lou Ambrose at 301-624-5547 to secure your place.

Yours sincerely,



Thomas Cromwell  
Executive Director