

MF-16224

MF - 16224

FILE NO.: 2960-08/AMRICALAT

**VISIT TO EL SALVADOR
AND GUATEMALA**

**OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND AFRICA**

THE HONOURABLE CHRISTINE STEWART

APRIL 6 TO 9, 1994

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIEL

2960.08/AMERICA LAT

BRIEFING BOOK

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CAHIER D'INFORMATION

**VISITE AU SALVADOR
ET AU GUATEMALA**

DU SECRÉTAIRE D'ÉTAT

CHARGÉE DE L'AMÉRIQUE LATINE ET DE L'AFRIQUE

L'HONORABLE CHRISTINE STEWART

du 6 au 9 avril 1994

MEETING WITH DR CARLOS MAURICIO MOLINA FONSECA

HUMAN RIGHTS OMBUDSMAN OF EL SALVADOR

Background

The *Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos* was created as part of the peace accords. The Office of the Ombudsman has been in operation for two years and in February 1994 issued its fourth report on the human rights situation in El Salvador. The organization investigates and reports on human rights violations, but it has no legal authority to act against violators.

The Office of the Ombudsman is at present very dependent on funding from foreign donors, including Canada. In the past two years CIDA supplied \$600 thousand in funding to the Office of the Ombudsman. Although it is considered an independent institution, the Salvadoran government should be providing for the Office's budget.

Carlos Mauricio Molina was appointed Ombudsman in 1992 by the National Assembly of El Salvador.

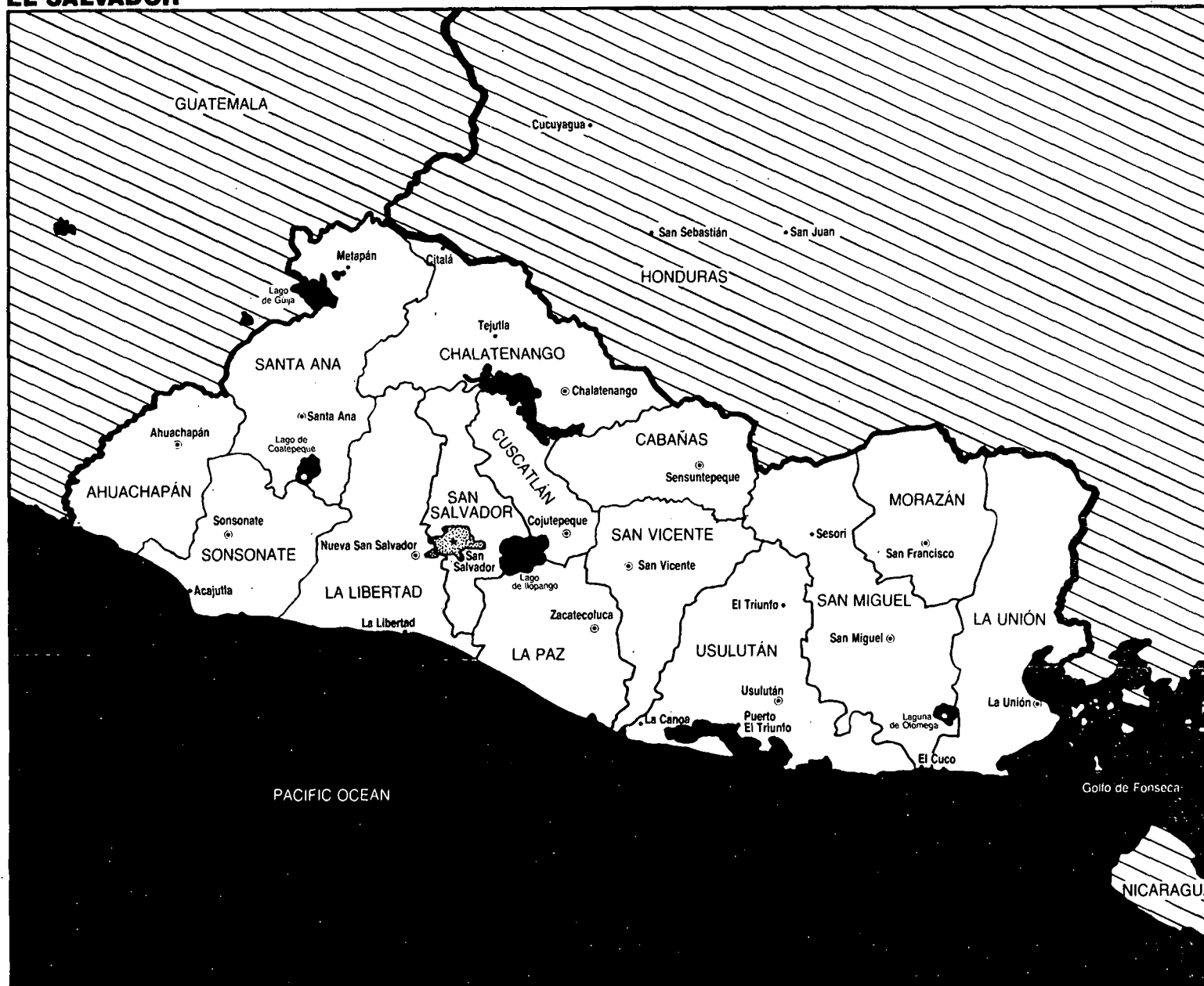
KEY MESSAGE

- The Canadian government is pleased to have provided financial support to the Office of the Ombudsman.

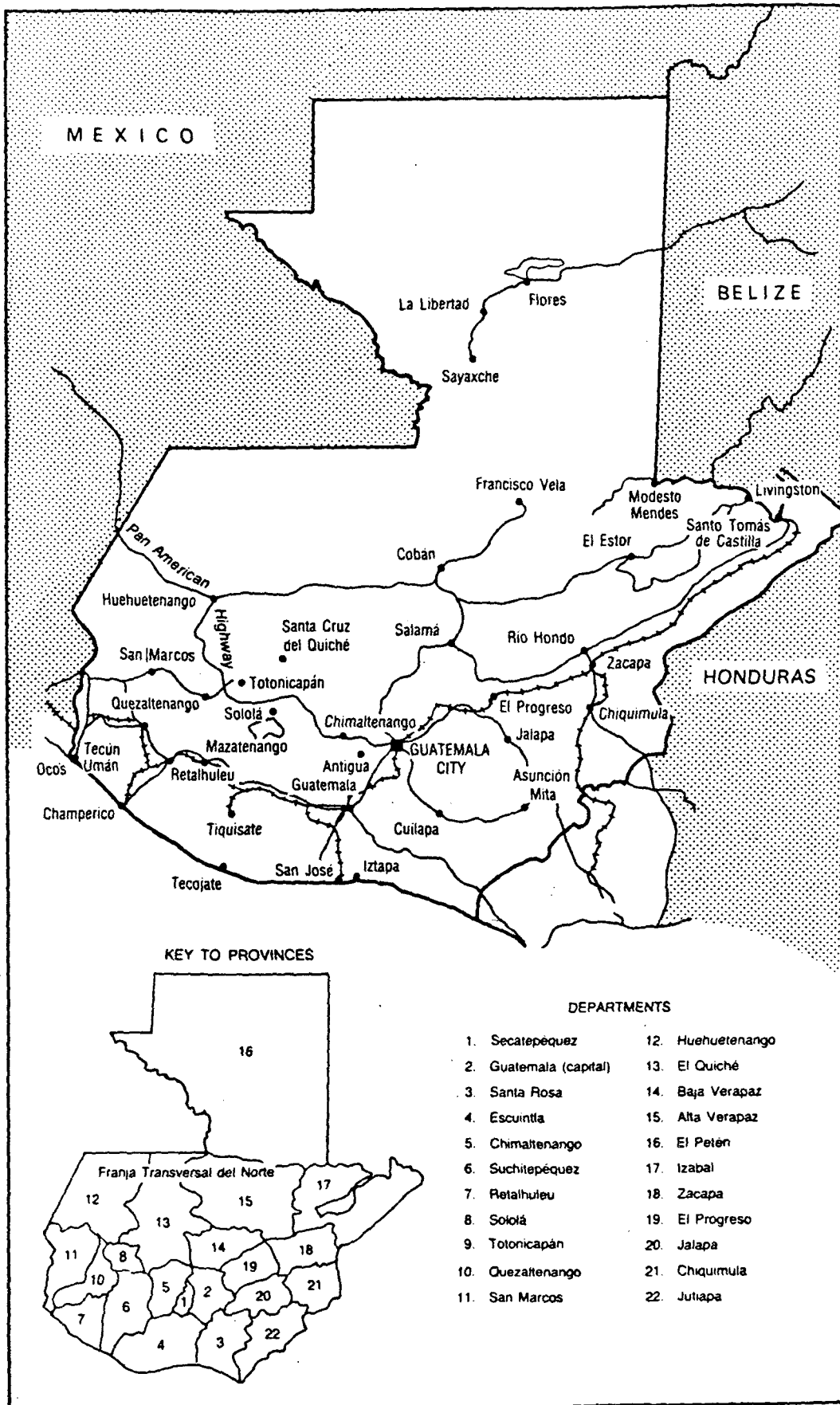
POINTS TO REGISTER

- Canada recently contributed \$100 thousand to the United Nations in support of the Joint Group investigation into illegal armed groups in El Salvador. We hope that our contribution and those of other countries will allow the Joint Group to carry out a thorough investigation.

EL SALVADOR



★ National capital
● Department capital



Guatemala

FARABUNDO MARTI NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (FMLN)

GOVERNING POLITICAL COMMISSION

General Coordinator: Shafik Jorge Hándal (FAL)

Assistant Coordinator: Eugenio Chicas

Salvador Sánchez Cerén (FPL)

Joaquín Villalobos (ERP)

Francisco Jovel Urquilla (PRTC)

José Eduardo Sancho Castañeda
(FARN)

Salvador Samayoa Leiva

Facundo Guardado

Ana María Guadalupe Martínez (ERP)

Juan Ramón Medrano

Norma Fidelia Guevara

Dagoberto Gutiérrez

María Marta Concepción de Valladares
(PRTC)

Fidel Recinos

José Mario López (assassinated December 9, 1993)

FIVE FACTIONS OF THE FMLN

Fuerzas Populares de Liberación (FPL) *People's Liberation Forces*

Ejército Revolucionario del Pueblo (ERP) *People's Revolutionary Army*

Fuerzas Armadas de Resistencia Nacional (FARN)
Armed Forces of National Resistance

Partido Revolucionario de Trabajadores Centroamericanos (PRTC)
Central American Revolutionary Workers Party

Fuerzas Armadas de Liberación (FAL) *Armed Forces of Liberation*

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du 6 au 9 avril 1994

EL SALVADOR

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- A. ITINERARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
- B. EL SALVADOR MAP AND FACT SHEETS
- C. SCENARIO BRIEFS
 - 1. Meeting with ONUSAL Officials
Biography of Chief of Mission Enrique ter Horst
 - 2. Meeting with President Cristiani
Biography of President Cristiani
 - 3. Meeting with Armando Calderón Sol
Biography of Armando Calderón Sol
 - 4. Meeting with Rubén Zamora
Biography of Rubén Zamora
 - 5. Working Lunch with NGOs
 - 6. Meeting with Human Rights Ombudsman
 - 7. Meeting with the *Junta de Vigilancia*
 - 8. Visit to the Chapel of the Central American University

BACKGROUND BRIEFS

- D. El Salvador Overview
- E. Human Rights Situation
 - 1994 UNCHR Resolution on El Salvador
- F. March 1994 Elections
 - Recommendations of COPADES Observers
 - Parties and Candidates
- G. ONUSAL
- H. Canadian Development Assistance Program
 - 1. Central America
 - 2. El Salvador
 - 3. CIDA Project Visit (Poligono Industrial - Don Bosco)
 - 4. Disposal of Red Beans Food Aid
- I. Trade Relations
- J. Refugee Issues
- K. Salvadoran Refugee Claimants
- L. International Adoptions
- M. Regional Issues
 - 1. Partnership for Democracy and Development
 - 2. Central American Integration and NAFTA
 - 3. Hemispheric Security
- N. Government of El Salvador
Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front

ITINERARY

WEDNESDAY APRIL 6, 1994

0700	Depart Ottawa (Air Canada 441) Ms Sylvia Gagnéux
0755	Arrive Toronto
0900	Depart Toronto (Air Canada 912) Secretary of State Stewart and Ms Gagnéux
1200	Arrive Miami
1500	Depart Miami (TACA 311)
1600	Arrive San Salvador Met by Ambassador Fox and Embassy staff
1800	Meeting with the <i>Junta de Vigilancia</i> (confirmed)
2000	Dinner with ONUSAL officials, hosted by Ambassador Fox (confirmed)

THURSDAY APRIL 7, 1994

0730	Breakfast with Human Rights Procurator (Ombudsman), Dr Carlos Molina (confirmed)
0830	Meeting with ARENA Presidential Candidate Armando Calderón (tentative)
1000	Meeting with President Alfredo Cristiani (confirmed)
1130	Meeting with CD/FMLN Presidential Candidate Rubén Zamora (tentative)
1300	Working lunch with leading local NGOs (at CIDA's Canadian Cooperation Office)
1500	Visit to CIDA supported urban community development project <i>Polígono Industrial Don Bosco</i>
1700	Private visit to Chapel of the Central American University
1915	Press scrum
1930	Reception for the Canadian Community

- 2 -

FRIDAY APRIL 8, 1994

0600	Breakfast at Camino Real
0730	Leave for Comalapa Airport
0840	Departure to Guatemala City (TACA 210)
0920	Arrive Guatemala City
1015	Meeting with the President of Guatemala, Lic. Ramiro de León Carpio (confirmed)
1120	Meeting with Human Rights Procurator (Ombudsman), Lic. Mario García Laguardia (tentative)
1245	Tour of the Embassy
1300	Working Lunch with leading NGOs (confirmed)
1530	Meeting with the Minister of Defence, General Mario René Enriquez (confirmed)
1630	Meeting with the Instancia Mediadora (tentative)
1930	Press scrum at Camino Real
1945	Reception for the Canadian Community

SATURDAY APRIL 9, 1994

0715	Depart Guatemala City (UNITED 874) Ms Sylvia Généreux
0950	Depart Guatemala City (AVIATECA 910) Secretary of State Stewart
1150	Arrive Mexico City
1404	Depart Mexico City (AEROMEXICO 218)
1504	Arrive Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

GUATEMALA

HOTEL

Hotel Camino Real Guatemala
Avenida Reforma y 14 calle
Zona 10
Guatemala City, Guatemala

Telephone (502) 2-33-46-33

Fax (502) 2-36-43-13

CANADIAN EMBASSY

Embajada de Canadá
Edificio Edyma Plaza
13 calle 8-44, Zona 10
Guatemala City, Guatemala

Telephone (502) 2-33-61-02
(502) 2-33-61-04

Fax (502) 2-33-61-61

CANADIAN AMBASSADOR

Mr. James Fox

Telephone (502) 2-37-11-09 (residence)

WEATHER

Approximately 15 to 20 degrees Celsius during
daytime. Cool evenings.

EXCHANGE RATE

Approximately 4 Quetzales per Canadian dollar.

EL SALVADOR

HOTEL

Hotel Camino Real San Salvador
Boulevard Los Heroes
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telephone (503) 79-38-88
(503) 98-13-33

Fax (503) 23-56-60

CANADIAN CONSULATE

Consulado de Canadá
Avenida Las Palmas 111
Colonia San Benito
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telephone (503) 24-16-48

Fax (503) 79-07-65

CANADIAN CONSUL

Mr. James Hunter

Secretary

Mrs. Silvia Membreño de Rodríguez

CANADA COOPERATION OFFICE (CIDA-CCO)

Oficina de Cooperación Canadiense
Calle Los Abetos 16-A
Colonia San Francisco
San Salvador, El Salvador

Director

Mr. Jorge Garza

Telephone (503) 98-05-75
(503) 98-10-38

Fax (503) 79-08-46

WEATHER

Approximately 28 to 34 degrees Celsius during
daytime. Low 20's during evening and early
morning.

EXCHANGE RATE

Approximately 6 Colones per Canadian dollar.

JAMES FOX

AMBASSADOR TO GUATEMALA AND EL SALVADOR

James Fox was appointed as Canada's Ambassador to **Guatemala**, with concurrent accreditation to **El Salvador**, in August 1993.

Mr. Fox (41) began his career with the Department of External Affairs in 1976. In various capacities he has served abroad in Canadian embassies in Madrid, Havana and Harare. Mr. Fox was Executive Assistant to the Under-Secretary of State at External Affairs from January 1992 until his appointment as an ambassador.

James Fox, a native of Windsor, Ontario, is married to Nurys Estrella from the Dominican Republic. They have two children: Arthur (13) and Esther (11).

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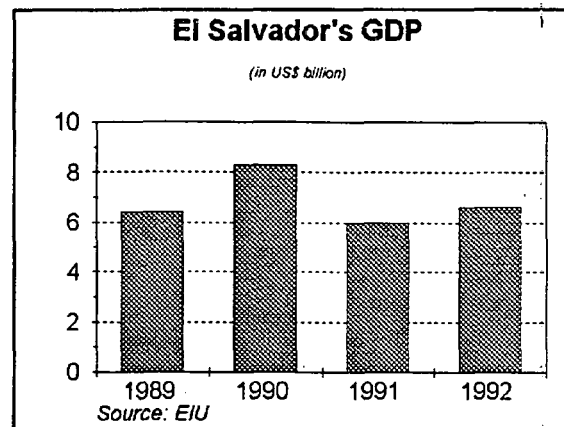
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El Salvador

General Description

Population:	5.44 million
Capital:	San Salvador: 472,000 (1986)
Pop. Growth Rate:	2.2%
Total Area:	21,893 km ²
Currency:	1C\$ = 6.53 colónes (October 13, 1993)
Language:	Spanish (official)
Literacy:	65%
Life Expectancy:	(69M/76F)
National Day:	Sept 15 (1821 Independence Day)



Political Data

Type of Government:

Republic of El Salvador; unicameral Legislative Assembly, 84 members, 64 elected locally, 20 elected nationally; president elected every 5 years, Assembly every 3 years.

Head of State:

President Alfredo Felix **Cristiani Burkard**

Minister of Foreign Relations: Miguel Angel Salaverría

Minister of Finance: Luis Enrique Cordova

Minister of Planning: Mirna Liévano de Marques

Main Political Parties: (# of seats in Chamber)

ARENA-National Republican Alliance:39

PDC-Christian Democratic Party:26

CD-Democratic Convergence:8

Other Parties:2

Next Elections:

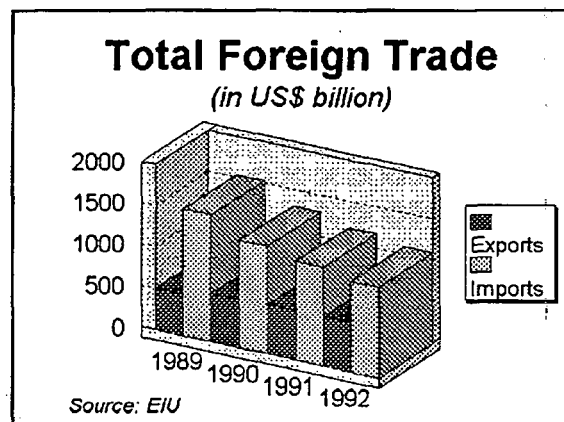
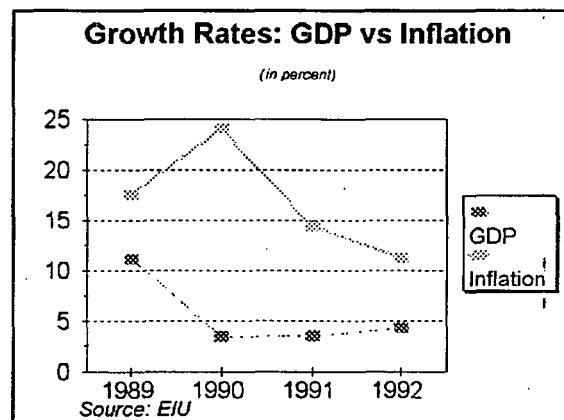
by Mar. 1994 (President & legislative)

Memberships:

ECLAC, G-77, IADB, IMF, OAS, UN.

Economic Data

GDP:	\$5.97 bn; \$6.4 bn (1993e)
GDP Growth Rate:	5% (1993f); 3% (1994e)
GDP per Capita:	\$1,095 (1993e)
Inflation Rate:	18% (1993f); 15% (1994e)
Unemployment Rate:	18% (e)
Total External Debt:	\$2.2 bn (1993f)
Military Budget:	\$106 mn (e); 9% of GDP
Debt Held by Canada:	\$1.8 mn



El Salvador

Trade with Canada:

\$ millions)	1991	1992	Jan-Oct 1993
EXP. to El Salvador:	13.7	11.1	14.6
IMP. from El Salvador:	15.9	12.5	14.0
Balance:	-2.2	-1.4	0.6

Major Canadian Imports from El Salvador:

Coffee, clothing, electrical equipment, melons.

Major Canadian Exports to El Salvador:

Paper, newsprint and wood pulp, plastic products and resins, telecommunications products, vaccines.

Canadian Direct Foreign Investment: > \$5 mn (1991)

Visitors from Canada: 800

Visitors to Canada: N/A*

Immigration to Canada: 2,551 (1993)

* included in total number of visitors from all of Central America - 11.

Diplomatic Representation

The Canadian Embassy in El Salvador:

c/o The Canadian Embassy in Guatemala

13 Calle 8-44, Zona 10

Edyma Plaza, 8 Nivel (P.O. Box 400)

Guatemala City, Guatemala, CA

TEL: (011-502-2) 33 61 02/04 TELEX: 5206

FAX: (011-502-2) 33 61 61/89

Ambassador: James A. Fox

The Canadian Consulate in El Salvador:

111 Avenida Las Palmas, Colonia San Benito

(Apartado Postal 3078 Centro de Gobierno)

San Salvador, Republic of El Salvador

TEL: (011-503) 24-16-48 FAX: (011-53) 79-07-65

Honorary Consul: J.D. Hunter (Mr.)

The El Salvadoran Embassy in Canada:

209 Kent Street

Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1Z8

TEL: (613) 238-2939 FAX: (613) 238-6940

Ambassador: Alfredo Francisco Ungo

Notes

GDP - Gross Domestic Product.

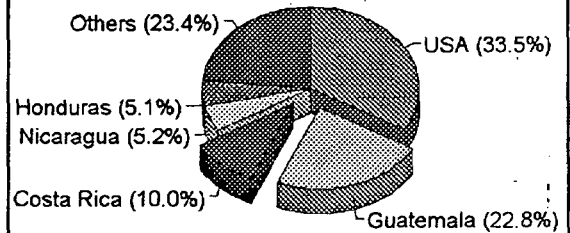
e - estimate; f - forecast; p-projection.

All statistics in 1992 figures & all currency in US\$ unless otherwise indicated.

January 1994.

El Salvador's Major Markets

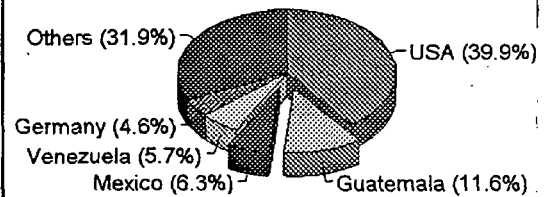
(Main Destinations of Exports in 1992)



Source: EIU

El Salvador's Major Imports

(Main Origins of Imports in 1992)



Source: EIU

MEETING WITH OFFICIALS OF ONUSAL

United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador

Participants

Dr Enrique ter Horst (Venezuela)
Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary General
ONUSAL Chief of Mission

Colonel Hank Morris (Canadian Forces Retired)
ONUSAL Chief of Staff

Diego
Dr José García Sayán
Head of the ONUSAL Human Rights Section

Mr Anders Kompass
Representative of the United Nations
Development Program (UNDP)

Mr Edward Hurst

Background

ONUSAL represents the United Nations' first attempt to observe, verify and assist the implementation of a comprehensive peace agreement; peace-making as opposed to peace-keeping. ONUSAL personnel first arrived in El Salvador in June 1991 to monitor a human rights agreement between the Government of El Salvador and the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN).

ONUSAL's current mandate expires on May 31, 1994. It is anticipated that the U.N. Secretary-General will ask the Security Council to extend the mandate until December 1994 as several major undertakings in the peace accords have not been completed. In particular the United Nations wants to verify the full deployment of the new National Civil Police (PNC) and the dissolution of the military-controlled National Police (PN).

KEY MESSAGE

- Much of the success of the peace process in El Salvador is due to the work of ONUSAL's personnel. We would like to see the lessons learned in El Salvador applied to other United Nations peace-keeping and peace-making endeavours.

.../2

- 2 -

POINTS TO REGISTER

- In your opinion what are the prospects for completing key areas of the peace accords, such as the deployment of the civilian police, before the year's end ?
- Do you anticipate that the new government will oppose the continued presence of ONUSAL beyond May 31, 1994 ?
- Would additional political pressure on the Salvadoran government from Canada and other countries aid or hinder the peace process ?
- What are the most pressing priorities for social and democratic development in El Salvador ?

ENRIQUE ter HORST

ONUSAL Chief of Mission

Date/Place of Birth: 22 November, 1948, Caracas, Venezuela

Education: Central University of Venezuela, Faculty of Law,
Law Degree, 1971

University of Paris,
University Doctoral Course (Public Finance) 1972

Work Experience:

1992-1994 Ambassador, Foreign Service, Venezuela,
General Manager, OTERCA, Venezuela.

1989-1992 Assistant Secretary-General, Office of the
Director-General for Development and
International Economic Co-operation, United
Nations, New York. Representative of the
Secretary-General at the Governing Board of
the University for Peace. Secretary for the
Administrative on Coordination Committee
of the United Nations Systems.

1987-1989 Assistant President, International Fund for
Agricultural Development (IFAD), Rome.
Responsible for the strategy to ensure the
third renewal of financial resources for IFAD.

1984-1989 Ambassador, Deputy Permanent
Representative of Venezuela to the United
Nations, Geneva.
Representative of Venezuela to the
Commission on Human Rights.
Chairman of the Commission on
Multinational Corporations of the ILO.

1979-1984 Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of
Venezuela to the United Nations, New York.

.../2

- 2 -

1977-1979

Executive Assistant to Dr. Manuel Pérez Guerrero, Minister for International Economic Affairs, Caracas.

Participated in bilateral and multilateral economic negotiations, particularly among the United Nations system of organisations, OPEC, IMF, World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank.

1976-1977

Personal Representative of Dr. Manuel Pérez Guerrero (Conference Co-Chairman) at the Conference on International Economic Cooperation in Paris.

1974-1975

Executive Secretary for the Presidential Commission on the Nationalization of the Venezuelan Iron Industry.

Languages

Fluent in Spanish, English, French and German. Working knowledge of Italian.

MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CRISTIANI

Setting

You will meet with the President as he enters the final two months of his administration. Despite the difficult evolution of the peace process, Alfredo Cristiani will be remembered as the President who secured an end to El Salvador's seemingly intractable civil war. He can return to a career in private enterprise with the knowledge that his place in Salvadoran history is assured.

The elections of March 20, 1994 demonstrated a solid base of support for the Nationalist Republican Alliance, compared to a precipitous decline for its former rival, the Christian Democratic Party. President Cristiani's efforts in the 1980s to moderate his party's right-wing rhetoric and build a grass-roots political organization have paid off.

KEY MESSAGE

- Canada will maintain a strong interest in the peace process. We are conscious of the social challenges confronting El Salvador, and we hope to play a significant role in assisting Salvadorans to meet those challenges.

POINTS TO REGISTER

PEACE PROCESS

- We congratulate you for your great personal contribution to the peace process.
- We are concerned by slow progress in implementing several key areas of the peace accords; in particular land transfers, assistance for combat veterans, deployment of the National Civil Police and judicial reform. We hope that your administration will make every effort to fulfill the Salvadoran government's obligations under the peace accords before your end of term.

HUMAN RIGHTS

- The Canadian government and many members of the Canadian public are concerned by the present level of violence in El Salvador. We are aware that much of the violence is of a criminal nature. We urge the Government of El Salvador to give full political and financial support to the new National Civilian Police force.

.../2

- 2 -

- The Canadian government was concerned by the apparent resurgence in political violence from October to December 1993 and the threat this posed to the peace process. In response to an appeal by the United Nations Secretary-General, Canada donated \$100 thousand in March 1994 towards the budget of the U.N. Joint Group for the investigation of illegal armed groups in El Salvador.

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

- We are pleased to have been able to support the first important steps toward a more transparent democracy in El Salvador through the Interim Democratic Development Fund under the Canadian International Development Agency.
- Canada has strongly supported, and will continue to support programming in human rights and democratization.
- We hope to announce the start of the Social Reconstruction Program in the near future. We are still in the process of selecting a management agency for this program. We look forward to implementing this very important program in cooperating with our many Canadian and Salvadoran partners.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

- The election of President Gaviria augurs well for the future of the OAS. Canada believes he will exercise strong, dynamic and effective leadership of the Organization.
- Canada was impressed with President Gaviria's vision of the OAS, which coincides with Canadian priorities of institutional reform, regional integration, and promotion of human rights and democratic development.
- With the election now behind us, Canada is calling on all OAS member states to offer the new Secretary General their wholehearted support, and to work with him for the greater good of the Organization. These are important times for the OAS and there is much work to be done.

.../3

- 3 -

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS

- The adoption program is a highly sensitive component of our immigration program in Central America.
- International adoptions are growing in number, but are fraught with problems of corruption and misperception by the local press.
- The Canadian Embassy has addressed the problems by setting up its own regulating and check mechanisms.
- We are grateful for the cooperation of Salvadoran officials in responding to this sensitive issue.

CENTRAL AMERICA INTEGRATION AND NAFTA

- We congratulate the Central American states for their demonstrated interest in liberalizing their trade and economic regimes, and look forward to continuing market-oriented reforms.
- Regarding the proposed study, "The Development of Technical Guidelines for the Modernization of Central American Trade Law Regimes", we are pleased to have provided the terms of reference for this study, and encourage the Central American governments to seek the necessary funding through one of the international financial institutions.

Responsive Only

- Canada has a stated commitment to strengthening global trade ties. Both NAFTA and the successful conclusion of the GATT Uruguay Round are steps in the right direction. Unilateral preference agreements are now instruments of the past.
- NAFTA Article 2204 permits the accession of new partners. However, neither the criteria to determine which countries may accede to NAFTA, nor details of the accession process, have been decided.
- Possible criteria to decide which countries may accede include: the importance as a trading partner to the NAFTA countries, openness of the economy, GATT-consistency of the trade regime, environmental and labour regimes and geographic location.

.../4

- 4 -

PARTNERSHIP FOR DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT (Responsive)

- As one of the founding members of the PDD, Canada sees the process as having potential value in helping to ensure continued international attentions on Central America and in promoting improved coordination between Central American countries and other friendly countries.
- We do not see the PDD as a channel for additional aid.
- We have worked actively in the PDD from its inception, but remain unsure of the sustained commitment of other participants.
- For the time being, we are not planning new initiatives pending further direction from the Central American governments and the outcome of a policy review by the U.S. administration.

ALFREDO CRISTIANI BURKARD

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR

President Cristiani's accession on June 1, 1989 marked the first time in El Salvador's history that one elected president succeeded another, the Christian Democrat incumbent José Napoleón Duarte. Alfredo Cristiani, candidate of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) won the elections of 1989 with 53.8 per cent of the vote.

Before entering politics Mr. Cristiani managed his family's coffee and cotton farms and its pharmaceutical operation. He served terms as President of the Salvadoran Coffee Growers Association and the National Association of Private Enterprise. Taken hostage by guerrillas along with several other businessmen in 1980, Cristiani emerged as leader of the captives, assisting the negotiations which ended their two week ordeal.

Alfredo Cristiani joined ARENA in 1984. ARENA's founder and defeated presidential candidate Roberto D'Aubuisson, undercut by his own extremist reputation, stepped aside as party leader in favour of Cristiani that same year. Alfredo Cristiani set about to moderate his right-wing party by building a grass-roots organization and attracting members from the business community and middle-class.

Mr. Cristiani was elected to the National Assembly in 1988 when ARENA won an absolute majority in that body and control of many municipalities. In the presidential campaign of 1989 he pledged to improve education, health care and the justice system and to privatize the banking and export sectors. In the 1989 elections ARENA took control of all three branches of the national government, two-thirds of the municipalities and twelve of fourteen provincial administrations.

Although the FMLN's November 1989 offensive and the military-inspired assassination of six Jesuit priests that month appeared to jeopardize President Cristiani's administration, his government succeeded in starting peace negotiations with the FMLN under United Nations auspices in April 1990. The Salvadoran government and the FMLN signed a comprehensive peace agreement on December 31, 1991.

Alfredo "Freddy" Cristiani was born on November 22, 1947. He was educated at the American School in San Salvador and received a B.A. in Business Administration from Georgetown University, Washington, D.C in 1968. In his formative years Cristiani was an avid sportsman. He won national championships in motocross and squash and played for the country's basketball team.

He is married to Margarita Llach. President Cristiani is fluent in English.

MEETING WITH ARMANDO CALDERON SOL

Background

Having received an estimated 49 per cent of the popular vote in the first round of national elections on March 20, 1994, the presidential candidate of the right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), Armando Calderón Sol, appears assured of victory in a second round of voting.

The tenets of the ARENA party are nationalism, individualism, free enterprise and national security.

Calderón Sol is regarded as belonging to the most conservative faction of ARENA. His campaign handlers sought to soften his image.

KEY MESSAGE

- The Canadian government would urge the new administration to abide by the commitments made in the peace accords.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- The Government of Canada and the Canadian public maintain a strong interest in respect for human rights and the peace process in El Salvador.

RUBÉN ZAMORA

Presidential Candidate of the Democratic Convergence Coalition, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front and the National Revolutionary Movement

Deeply influenced by the teachings of the Catholic Church, the young Rubén Zamora had planned to become a priest. However at age nineteen he abandoned his studies to devote himself to social activism. At first he helped organize cooperative farms, but these projects were destroyed by the Salvadoran National Guard which claimed they were the work of Communists.

He later joined the Christian Democratic party of José Napoleón Duarte. In 1977 when Zamora and other Christian Democrats protested the fraudulent election of General Carlos Humberto Romero as President, they were suppressed by security forces. Zamora was arrested, drugged and interrogated. Released on the condition that he leave El Salvador, Zamora went to England with his family.

General Romero was overthrown by reform-minded army officers in 1979. Zamora accepted the position of Minister of the Presidency with the new government, and his brother Mario became the Attorney General. A right-wing terror campaign caused the collapse of the government in January 1980. Mario Zamora was assassinated by a death squad on February 22, 1980.

Rubén Zamora fled to Nicaragua where he founded the Social Christian Popular Movement (MPSC). The MPSC later merged with another socialist party, Guillermo Ungo's National Revolutionary Movement, to form the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR). The FDR then joined in a political alliance with the insurgent Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN).

In 1984 Rubén Zamora, Guillermo Ungo and several leaders of the FMLN met with then President José Napoleón Duarte in La Palma, El Salvador to discuss an end to the civil war, but the talks failed. Zamora began to distance himself from the FMLN in 1985.

Rubén Zamora returned to El Salvador in November 1987 to found the Democratic Convergence (CD) coalition of left-of-centre political parties. Although the CD received only 4 % of the vote in the 1989 elections, it increased its support to 12 % in the 1991 legislative elections, in which Rubén Zamora won a seat in the National Assembly. As the presidential candidate for the CD, MNR and FMLN in the elections of March 1994, Zamora received 25 % of the popular vote in the first round.

Rubén Ignacio Zamora Rivas was born in Cojutepeque, Cuscatlán on November 9, 1942. He is married to María Ester del Pilar Chamorro, a Nicaraguan. The Zamoras have five children: three daughters and two sons.

ARMANDO CALDERON SOL

Presidential Candidate of the Nationalist Republican Alliance

Armando Calderón trained as a lawyer, receiving a Doctorate in Jurisprudence and Social Sciences from the University of San Salvador in 1977.

Calderón was a founding member of the right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) in 1981, at which time he was elected Director of Records with the first Executive Council. He was elected to the National Assembly in 1985 and was appointed leader of the ARENA deputies.

Calderón was elected Mayor of San Salvador in 1988 and re-elected in 1991. In 1988 he became President both of ARENA and its National Executive Council (COENA). In these capacities he made many representational visits to the United States and Latin American countries.

He has been past President of the Salvadoran Institute of Municipal Development (ISDEM), the Corporation of Municipalities of the Republic of El Salvador (COMURES) and the Salvadoran Investment Corporation (CORSAIN).

Armando Calderón Sol was born in San Salvador on June 24, 1948. He is married to Elizabeth Aguirre. They have three sons.

MEETING WITH RUBEN ZAMORA

Background

Mr. Zamora's CD/FMLN/MNR coalition polled a respectable 25 per cent of the popular vote in the March 1994 elections, double the figure the CD received in 1991. Although ARENA's presidential candidate, Armando Calderón, appears assured of victory in a second round of voting, left-wing parties may have as many as 23 of 84 seats in the new National Assembly.

KEY MESSAGE

- Canada appreciates the effort your coalition has made to participate in the democratic process.

Points to Register

- Given your long experience in the political life of your country, I would appreciate hearing your views as to the long term prospects for social change in El Salvador.

EL SALVADOR

MEETING WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Participants

Mr Félix Ulloa
Judicial Studies Institute of El Salvador (IEJES)

Ms Celina Monterroso
Social Initiative for Democracy

Mr Reynaldo Blanco
Human Rights Commission of El Salvador (CDHES)
(Non-governmental)

Ms Mirna Rodríguez
Mujer Ciudadana

Ms María Julia Hernández
Tutela Legal
Human Rights Office of the Archbishop of San Salvador

Mr Hector Córdova
Federation of Savings and Credit
Cooperative Associations of El Salvador (FEDECACES)

Mr Ismael Merlos
Confederation of Cooperative
Associations of El Salvador (COACES)

Background

Twelve years of civil war have caused incalculable damage to El Salvador and its citizens. Current social and economic indicators are no better than those of thirty years ago. El Salvador must redress the extreme poverty and disenfranchisement of much of its population to ensure continuing peace.

The non-governmental sector was menaced and persecuted by security forces and clandestine groups throughout the civil war. Although two years of relative peace has allowed the non-governmental sector to organize and grow, these organizations still face many challenges from a politically polarized society.

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- 2 -

Mujer Ciudadana, IEJES, COACES and FEDECACES have all received CIDA funds in the past two years for reconstruction and democratic development projects.

KEY MESSAGE

- The Canadian government is proud to have assisted the Salvadoran non-governmental sector to improve social conditions in El Salvador. We believe that your work is essential for establishing a democratic civil society.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Canada will continue to support social rehabilitation and physical reconstruction in El Salvador.
- We are expecting to announce the start of the Social Reconstruction Program for El Salvador in the near future. Along with our Canadian partners who support the peace process, we look forward to implementing this important program.
- In your opinion, what are the most serious threats to the peace process in El Salvador ?
- How can the international community best assist the work of the non-governmental sector ?

MEETING WITH THE JUNTA DE VIGILANCIA

Participants

José Sergio Mena Mendez (ARENA)	José Ovidio Hernández (PDC)
Luis Felipe Alam y Alam (PDC)	Norma Guevara de Ramirios (FMLN)
Gerson Martínez (FMLN)	Carlos Romualdo Marroquín (MAC)
Miguel Angel Calero (MAC)	Roberto Ortiz (CD)
Vinicio Peñate (CD)	Félix Ulloa (MNR)
Rafeal Peña Marin (MNR)	Ciro Zepeda Menjívar (PCN)
Mario Ernesto Orellana (MSN)	Mardoqueo Carranza (MU)

Background

Although the role of *Junta de Vigilancia* (Oversight Committee) is sanctioned by the Electoral Code of El Salvador, it received no operating funds from the Salvadoran government. The UNDP provided the *Junta* with an office and Germany donated some equipment.

According to the *Junta* members they found the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) to be uncooperative and they blamed the TSE for their organization's lack of funding.

KEY MESSAGE

- We appreciate your role in the electoral process, which was carried out under difficult circumstances.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- What changes are you recommending to improve the registration and voting procedures ?

VISIT TO THE CHAPEL OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY (UCA)

Background

In the early morning of November 16, 1989, during an FMLN urban offensive in San Salvador, six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter were murdered by members of the Salvadoran army's Atlacatl Battalion, allegedly on the orders of high level officers.

The victims were:

Ignacio Ellacuría Beascoechea, S.J., UCA Rector

Ignacio Martín-Baro, S.J., UCA Vice-Rector

Amando López Quintana, S.J.

Joaquín López y López, S.J.

Segundo Montes Mozo, S.J.

Juan Ramón Moreno Pardo, S.J.

Julia Elba Ramos

Celina Mariceth Ramos

Concerted pressure from the international community, including Canada, and human rights organizations forced the Salvadoran government to investigate and prosecute the crime.

Although several soldiers confessed to the killings, only two were ultimately convicted in September 1991: Colonel Guillermo Alfredo Benavides and Lieutenant Yushy René Mendoza. They were both released from prison on April 1, 1993 as a result of amnesty legislation approved by the National Assembly following the release of the United Nations Truth Commission Report.

1994/62. El Salvador

The Commission on Human Rights,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Recalling its resolution 1993/93 of 10 March 1993, and the statement by the Chairman of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of 20 August 1993 (E/CN.4/1994/2 - E/CN.4/Sub.2/1993/45, para. 245),

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 48/149 of 20 December 1993,

Taking note of the report of the Independent Expert (E/CN.4/1994/11),

Convinced that full and speedy implementation of the outstanding commitments of the Peace Accords is necessary in order to guarantee full respect for human rights and the consolidation of the reconciliation and democratization process under way in El Salvador,

Concerned by the fact that, in spite of the improvements made in the field of human rights, continuing acts of violence, such as the recent assassinations, attacks and threats against members of various political parties, could affect the peace and national reconciliation process,

Welcoming in this regard the efforts of the Secretary-General in cooperation with the Government of El Salvador, to establish the Joint Group for the Investigation of Politically Motivated Illegal Armed Groups, which is to conduct an impartial and independent investigation into the activities of such groups and their consequences as regards political violence,

Recognizing that the work of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and his representatives and the monitoring carried out by the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador, in particular its Human Rights Division, have contributed significantly to the success of the Peace Accords,

Recognizing also that the effective protection of human rights calls for continued strengthening of and support for the judicial system to help to eliminate impunity and thus ensure the full attainment of the rule of law,

Recognizing with satisfaction the fulfilment of most of the commitments made by the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional,

Considering that a commitment was made to implement the recommendations of the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador and the Commission on the Truth, and emphasizing that a new process for the full implementation of the peace and national reconciliation agreements is under way,

Taking into account the general elections to be held in El Salvador on 20 March 1994 within a climate of peace achieved by the people of El Salvador,

Recalling the commitment of 5 November 1993 by the presidential candidates to abide by the peace and reconciliation agreements,

Aware that the international community must continue to support all efforts by the Government of El Salvador to consolidate peace, ensure full respect for human rights and undertake the reconstruction of El Salvador,

1. Expresses its thanks to the Independent Expert for his work and takes note of the report submitted in accordance with his terms of reference (E/CN.4/1993/11) and regrets that circumstances did not permit him to visit El Salvador;
2. Expresses its satisfaction and gratitude to the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional for having fulfilled most of the commitments made and having overcome a number of obstacles to the implementation of the agreements, within the framework of the peace and reconciliation process;
3. Recognizes the work of the Governments of Colombia, Spain, Mexico and Venezuela, which make up the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General, and of the Government of the United States of America in supporting the peace process in El Salvador;
4. Recognizes that, while there have been improvements in the situation of human rights in El Salvador, some negative concerns still exist regarding the observance of the right to life and that the capacity of the judicial system to shed light on and punish human rights violations continues to be unsatisfactory;
5. Urges the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional to intensify their efforts to continue and complete the land transfer programme, the programme for the reintegration of former combatants into society, the deployment of the new National Civil

E/CN.4/1994/L.11/Add.6
page 18

Police, the collection of weapons in the private hands of the armed forces and the adoption of the Act on Private Security Services, in accordance with the agreements;

6. Expresses its belief that it is important to continue strengthening the Office of the National Counsel for the Defence of Human Rights and to carry out the agreed judicial reforms to ensure its independence and impartiality;

7. Commends the Government of El Salvador on the establishment of the Inter-institutional Investigating Group to investigate human rights violations and punish those responsible, and of the Joint Group for the Investigation of Illegal Armed Groups, set up on the initiative of the Secretary-General and recommended by the Commission on the Truth, and urges all sectors of Salvadorian society to cooperate with that investigation;

8. Reiterates its gratitude for the important work being carried out by the Secretary-General and his representative and by the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador, and extends to them its support so that they can continue to take all necessary steps to contribute to the successful implementation of the Peace Accords;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Government of El Salvador with any advisory services it may request, through the Centre for Human Rights;

10. Reaffirms its confidence that the elections of 20 March 1994 will strengthen national reconciliation and urges the people of El Salvador to participate in them;

11. Expresses its support for the statement of 5 November 1993, entitled "Commitment of the presidential candidates to peace and stability in El Salvador", in which the candidates inter alia solemnly committed themselves to maintain the constructive evolution of the peace process and to implement all the commitments contained in the Peace Accords and rejected any politically motivated violence or intimidation;

12. Decides to extend the mandate of the Independent Expert for one year, for the purpose of providing advisory services to El Salvador and reporting, with the close cooperation of the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador and the Government of

E/CN.4/1994/L.11/Add.6

page 19

El Salvador, on developments in human rights in El Salvador to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-first session under the agenda item "Advisory services in the field of human rights".

57th meeting

4 March 1994

[Adopted without a vote.]

EL SALVADOR - OVERVIEW

Issue

As recently as 1990, many commentators familiar with El Salvador believed that its civil war could well drag on past the turn of the century. That a peace agreement was achieved at the end of 1991 was a major accomplishment for the Government of El Salvador and the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN). However, important provisions of the peace accords remain unfulfilled or are delayed.

Background

El Salvador's civil war (1979-1991) was a social and economic catastrophe for that country. The impoverishment of the majority of the population which was one cause of the conflict only worsened because of it. Two-thirds of Salvadorans are now poor; more than one-third the population is indigent.

One success of the peace accords has been a significant demilitarization of Salvadoran society. Over eight thousand FMLN combatants and approximately thirty thousand members of the government forces, including those from all the elite army battalions, were demobilized by March 1993. International pressure in support of the United Nations Ad Hoc Commission resulted in the forced retirement of many members of the Military High Command in 1993.

While there have been delays in implementing several important provisions of the peace accords, the most serious may be those affecting the land transfers program. As of November 1993 only ten per cent of potential beneficiaries had received land titles. The United Nations apportioned blame to both the Salvadoran government and the FMLN for complicating the land transfer program.

When an arms cache in Managua, Nicaragua exploded on May 23, 1993 it was revealed that the FMLN still had numerous armaments in hiding which should have been destroyed by December 1992. The FMLN leadership eventually revealed the location of 128 arms caches in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras, assisting the United Nations in the location and destruction of the armaments. The incident was an embarrassment for the United Nations which had earlier certified the destruction of the FMLN's arms and it temporarily jeopardized the FMLN's status as a political party.

Reconstruction and rehabilitation in El Salvador will be a slow and difficult process. In economic terms Salvadorans in 1994 are at the same level they were in 1964. About one million Salvadorans, twenty per cent of the population, emigrated during the civil war. Many may never return. Environmental degradation is widespread, adversely affecting the health of the population and limiting agricultural production.

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Salvadoran Position

The Salvadoran government is unlikely to admit that it is either slow in implementing the peace accords or uncooperative with ONUSAL.

Canadian Position

The Canadian government is concerned by persistent reports from ONUSAL that important provisions of the peace accords remain unfulfilled. Much of the blame for delays is apportioned to the Salvadoran government.

Points to Register

- We would like to see a renewed commitment by the Government of El Salvador to complete its obligations under the peace accords.
- It has been repeatedly emphasized, in such international fora as the World Bank Consultative Group for El Salvador, that El Salvador's social and economic progress will be assured only by full implementation of the peace accords.

EL SALVADOR - HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

Issue

Although the situation has greatly improved since the end of the civil war in February 1992, El Salvador's society and institutions must change significantly to ensure greater respect for human rights.

Background

The negotiated settlement between the Government of El Salvador and the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) ended that country's tragic twelve-year civil war, but the problems which generated the conflict have only begun to be addressed. Most Salvadorans are mired in poverty. Corruption is widespread throughout the government, judiciary, security forces and business sector. The political prejudice and extremism exhibited by some sectors of Salvadoran society could poison El Salvador's prospects for advancement.

An explosion of criminal violence in the past two years may have its roots in the lawlessness and mayhem of the civil war period. This crime wave has been fuelled by the large quantity of armaments available and a lack of employment opportunity for the thousands of ex-combatants formerly occupied by the war. El Salvador's criminal homicide rate has climbed steadily in recent months to over five murders per day on average. According to local surveys, crime is the greatest worry for a majority of Salvadorans.

Members of various political and social organizations continue to receive anonymous threats. In the last three months of 1993 the assassinations of several members of the FMLN and other political groups were suspected to have been politically motivated. In particular, the murders of FMLN leaders Francisco Velis on October 25 and José Mario López on December 9 appeared to be the work of "death squads."

In response to the domestic and international outcry over the renewed violence, the Salvadoran government formed an Inter-Institutional Commission to investigate the most controversial murders, with the assistance of police officials from the U.S.A., Britain and Spain. After a protracted negotiation with the United Nations the Government of El Salvador agreed to the creation of an independent Joint Group to investigate the activities of illegal armed organizations since January 1992. The Joint Group's investigation will be directed by Mauricio Molina Fonseca, the Human Rights Ombudsman; Diego García Sayán, Director of ONUSAL's Human Rights Division; and lawyers José Leandro Echeverría and Juan Jerónimo Castillo. In response to an appeal by the U.N. Secretary-General, Canada donated \$100 thousand in March 1994 towards the budget of the Joint Group.

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On March 20, 1993, less than a week after the release of the United Nations Truth Commission report on human rights violations during the civil war, a special session of the Salvadoran National Assembly approved a blanket amnesty law for those named in the report. The amnesty law led to the April 1 release from prison of Col. Guillermo Benavides and Lt. Yushy Mendoza, the only members of the military convicted for the brutal murder of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter at the University of Central America in San Salvador, on November 16, 1989.

In his November 1993 report on El Salvador, the United Nations Secretary-General criticized the Salvadoran government for not giving adequate financial or technical resources to the new National Civil Police force. The establishment of the National Civil Police (PNC) is a key element of the peace accords, designed to remove responsibility for internal security from the Salvadoran military and end the use of state security forces as instruments of political terror. Full deployment of the National Civil Police and dissolution of the old National Police (PN) are both far behind schedule.

The present Salvadoran government has been less than cooperative with international human rights institutions. In April 1993 a previously agreed visit by members of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission (IACHR) was cancelled, much to the chagrin of that organization. The United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNCHR) Independent Expert, Dr Pedro Nikken, was unable to travel to El Salvador in 1993 when his request for a visa was delayed over a technicality.

The Office of the Ombudsman for the Defence of Human Rights (PDH) has gained strength in the past year and has a good working relationship with the Human Rights Unit of ONUSAL. However, as with the National Civil Police, the Office of the Ombudsman is overly dependent on international financial assistance. A creation of the peace accords, the Office of the Ombudsman has a mandate to make recommendations on human rights cases, but it has no powers of enforcement.

Although important reforms to the judicial system are underway, due process is not yet the norm for most Salvadorans entangled in legal matters.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] An estimated ninety per cent of El Salvador's prison population consists not of convicts, but of detainees awaiting prosecution.

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Salvadoran society overall remains profoundly conservative and male-oriented. Due to the effects of the civil war many Salvadoran women are solely responsible for their families' welfare, yet their economic opportunities are limited. Women form a large part of the labour market, but are by and large restricted to the lowest paying jobs. Violence against women is prevalent.

Salvadoran Position

It is evident from the Salvadoran government's 1994 campaign to remove discussion of the human rights situation in El Salvador from the agenda of the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNCHR) that it believes the peace settlement has largely resolved the issue.

On February 8, 1994 Salvadoran Foreign Minister Salaverría met in Geneva with Canada's Ambassador to the Human Rights Commission to promote his government's view that El Salvador should be dropped from the Commission's agenda. Canada replied that it could not support the removal of El Salvador because of continuing reports of human rights violations. At the UNCHR Canada worked with Western and Latin America delegations to achieve a compromise which saw the resolution on El Salvador moved from Item 12 to Item 19 "Advisory Services."

Canadian Position

Despite the progress made because of the peace accords, improvement in the human rights situation will only come about through the concerted efforts of Salvadorans and the strengthening of democratic civilian organizations and institutions. International assistance can have an important role in this process.

The Canadian government strongly denounced the November 1989 assassination of the Jesuits. An offer of technical assistance for the investigation was made at the time, but was not accepted by the Salvadoran government. Canada, among other countries, exerted diplomatic pressure on the Government of El Salvador to investigate thoroughly and prosecute the crime. In April 1990 the former Secretary of State for External Affairs sent a senior member of the department to El Salvador to press Canada's interest in a resolution of the case with the Salvadoran authorities. Canada's Embassy in Guatemala monitored the entire judicial proceedings which resulted in the conviction and imprisonment of two members of the Salvadoran army.

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- 4 -

In March 1994, the Canadian government, through CIDA, donated \$100 thousand towards the budget of the Joint Group to investigate the activities of illegal armed organizations, formed under United Nations auspices.

Points to Register

- ▶ WE ARE CONCERNED BY THE HIGH LEVEL OF CRIMINAL VIOLENCE IN EL SALVADOR. SALVADORANS NEED A GREATER SENSE OF SECURITY IF THEY ARE TO TRULY BENEFIT FROM THE PEACE PROCESS.
- ▶ THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT URGES THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR TO GIVE FULL FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL CIVIL POLICE.
- ▶ CANADA WELCOMES THE INVESTIGATIONS INTO ALLEGED POLITICAL VIOLENCE BY THE INTER-INSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION AND THE INDEPENDENT JOINT GROUP UNDER UNITED NATIONS AUSPICES.
- ▶ THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO IMPROVING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN EL SALVADOR. TO THIS END CANADA'S DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR EL SALVADOR SUPPORTS PROJECTS PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT.

EL SALVADOR - NATIONAL ELECTIONS 1994

Issue

On March 20, 1994, for the first time in their country's history, Salvadorans had the opportunity to vote for parties representing the full range of the political spectrum. An onerous registration procedure and public apathy about the electoral process resulted in an estimated 46 per cent abstention level.

Background

Four elections were held simultaneously in El Salvador on March 20, 1994: for President (5 year term), for 84 seats in the National Assembly (3 year term), for 262 municipal governments and for 20 seats in the Central American Parliament.

The Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) was responsible for organizing the elections. The TSE received technical assistance from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) among other institutions. A Board of Vigilance, representing all the political parties, and the Electoral Division of the United Nations Observer Mission (ONUSAL) monitored the electoral process.

Criticism of the TSE centred on its efforts to register eligible voters, issue voter identification cards and train electoral officials. An estimated 300 thousand eligible Salvadorans did not apply for voting credentials. Up to 25 thousand potential voters (of over 1.2 million casting ballots) were unable to vote on election day because of discrepancies between their identification and the electoral role.

Early returns indicate that the main political parties received approximately the same proportion of votes as had been indicated in electoral preference surveys. ARENA polled just under 50 per cent of the popular vote, the CD/FMLN/MNR coalition received 25 per cent, and the Christian Democratic party obtained 16 per cent. It appeared that no one presidential candidate received an absolute majority. Thus a second round of voting for President may be required 30 days after the official count is released. Official results are not expected until the first week of April 1994.

Salvadoran Position

It is probable that the Government of El Salvador will refer to the electoral process only in positive terms.

- 2 -

Canadian Position

In the past two years Canada provided over \$687 thousand for projects promoting democratic development and electoral participation. Of these funds \$100 thousand went to the United Nations Development Program training project with the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. Canada sent six civilians to serve as electoral observers with the United Nations. CIDA contributed \$21 thousand to a coalition of Canadian NGOs which sent an observer mission.

Although crude methods of fraud may have been eliminated from the electoral process in El Salvador, the requirements for obtaining voting credentials are too difficult for the many Salvadorans who are poor and illiterate. There is room for improvement.

Points to Register

- ▶ THE SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL MUST BE ENCOURAGED TO IMPROVE ITS PERFORMANCE BEFORE THE SECOND ROUND OF VOTING.
- ▶ WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE ELECTORAL REGISTER CORRECTED TO ENFRANCHISE THE MANY THOUSANDS OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS WHO WERE UNABLE TO VOTE IN THE FIRST ROUND.

**Committee for Peace and Democracy in El Salvador
Comité pour la paix et la démocratie au Salvador
Comité por la paz y la democracia en El Salvador
(COPADES)**

**1 rue Nicholas St., Suite 300
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1N 7B7
Tel: (613) 241-7007, ext. 306; Fax: (613) 241-5302**

RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Immediate

Before the second-round presidential balloting due to be held April 24, we urge:

1. That blind citizens who are otherwise eligible to vote (estimated at 30,000) be allowed to do so;
2. That people who registered to vote but did not receive electoral cards (some 80,000) be allowed to vote;
3. That the many people who registered and received electoral cards but were not put on the electoral roll be placed on the roll and thus allowed to vote; this includes people who had voted in previous elections;
4. That polling stations be established closer to people's place of residence and that better transportation be provided;
5. That the independent auditor of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal be appointed, as called for by Salvadoran law;
6. That funds be provided to the Electoral Oversight Group (Junta de Vigilancia) so that it can function effectively;
7. That extra efforts be made to investigate and prosecute any acts of political violence or threats that occur during the coming campaign.

II. Electoral Institutional Reform

Before the next general elections, we recommend:

1. The Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) must undergo serious and far-reaching reforms if it is to become accountable for its actions and decisions, more transparent, and more effective in carrying out its mandate of facilitating the right of Salvadorans to participate freely and fairly in the country's electoral process. Specifically, The TSE should become independent of political parties and government influence, its staff must be professionalized, and its labour relations must be normalized.

2. There must be a complete review of the country's electoral system before the next general election. Particular areas that need reform are: the process for registering voters, facilitating the participation of illiterate people, and the conditions under which voting actually takes place.

3. Clear and enforceable limits and controls on campaign spending and the use of resources should be established.

4. There must be a more adequate education of local election officials to ensure that they know their responsibilities.

5. There should be more complete education of voters, so that they know their rights as citizens and can participate fully in the electoral process.

6. The media, in collaboration with the political parties, should establish a code of conduct with respect to ethical and balanced coverage of electoral campaigns.

III. Conditions for Democratic Development

Moreover, we recommend:

1. In order to contribute to the conditions for democratization and a credible electoral process, the government of El Salvador should recommit itself to the full and timely implementation of all aspects of the Peace Accords, and should undertake to see to the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth Commission.



IV. Canadian Government

We ask the Canadian government to consider the following:

1. Canada's bilateral aid earmarked for improving the electoral system should be made conditional on real progress in the implementation of reforms;

2. The majority of Canada's aid should be earmarked for Salvadoran NGOs working to establish the conditions for greater democracy, especially those working with women.

3. In light of the fact that El Salvador remains a country where security forces and death squads act with impunity, and where no serious judicial reform has taken place:

a) Canada should keep El Salvador on the list of countries in the Political Prisoners and Oppressed Persons Designated Class of the Immigration Act;

b) Canadian Immigration officials should be instructed to give special consideration in processing Humanitarian and Compassionate Review applications to allow Salvadorans to stay in Canada after they have been refused Convention refugee status.

EL SALVADOR - POLITICAL PARTIES AND CANDIDATES

PARTIES

Alianza Republicana Nacionalista (ARENA) *Nationalist Republican Alliance*

Partido Demócrata Cristiano (PDC) *Christian Democratic Party*

Coalición Convergencia Democrática (CD)/

Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN)

Democratic Convergence Coalition/Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front

Movimiento Nacional Revolucionario (MNR) *National Revolutionary Movement*

Partido de Conciliación Nacional (PCN) *National Conciliation Party*

Movimiento Popular Social Cristiano (MPSC) *People's Christian Social Movement*

Partido Social Demócrata (PSD) *Social Democratic Party*

Pueblo Libre (PL) *Free Nation*

Movimiento Auténtico Cristiano (MAC) *Authentic Christian Movement*

Unión Democrática Nacionalista (UDN) *Nationalist Democratic Union*

Movimiento de Solidaridad Nacional (MSN) *National Solidarity Movement*

Movimiento de Unidad (MU) *Unity Movement*

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

ARENA Dr Armando Calderón Sol

CD/FMLN/ Rubén Zamora (CD: for President)

MNR Francisco Lima (FMLN: for Vice-president)

PDC Fidel Chávez Mena (third place in first round of voting)

UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN EL SALVADOR

Issue

The advancement of the peace process in El Salvador owes much to the presence of the United Nations Observer Mission, known by its Spanish acronym **ONUSAL**. ONUSAL's current mandate will expire on May 31, 1994. The United Nations Secretary-General has indicated that ONUSAL's mandate should be renewed pending completion of undertakings made in the peace accords. Many Salvadorans are concerned that their country's civilian institutions are not yet strong enough to ensure the same protection afforded by ONUSAL.

Background

The United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador was created as part of the comprehensive peace agreement negotiated under United Nations auspices by the Government of El Salvador and the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN). ONUSAL began as a human rights verification mission formed at the request of the two parties following an initial agreement on human rights signed in San José, Costa Rica on July 26, 1990. With the completion of the peace accords in New York on December 31, 1991 ONUSAL was given the new task of verifying the implementation of all aspects of the peace agreement.

Fifty-five members of the Canadian Armed Forces, originally assigned to the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), joined ONUSAL in January 1992 as the second largest military observer contingent after that of Spain. The military observer division of ONUSAL assisted and verified the demobilization of over eight thousand FMLN combatants and approximately thirty thousand members of the Salvadoran military and other security forces. The demobilization effort included the dissolution of all the Salvadoran army's Rapid Deployment Infantry Battalions (BIRIs) and the destruction of the FMLN's weapons stockpiles.

Since its establishment ONUSAL's Human Rights Division has steadily increased its capabilities to investigate alleged human rights abuses. The Human Rights Division now produces a comprehensive report on its findings every three months.

The ONUSAL Police Division monitors and assists the National Police, the new National Civil Police (PNC) and the National Public Security Academy. ONUSAL has provided technical support and logistical support for the PNC.

Venezuelan diplomat Enrique ter Horst recently replaced Colombian Augusto Ramírez Ocampo as Chief of Mission for ONUSAL.

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- 2 -

Points to Register

- We congratulate the staff of ONUSAL for their significant contribution to the peace process in El Salvador.

CENTRAL AMERICA

CANADIAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

During the armed conflicts of the 1980s in Central America, Canada's development assistance program was driven by the political instability of the region and the search for peace. In the past five years, the consolidation of peace and democracy has set the stage for the countries of the region to strengthen civil democracy, get back on the path of economic development, and pursue regional integration.

STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES

The current year, bilateral program budget of \$34.7 M covers programs in Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala. The Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) in Panama and Mexico is also part of the financial envelope. Other Canadian development assistance channels spend approximately \$10M annually in the region. CIDA resources are being adjusted to build on effective projects and combine sectors more effectively where a regional perspective is possible. We are working in four areas:

Democratic Development: focussed in Guatemala and El Salvador the programs rely heavily on Canadian and local NGOs. We capitalize heavily on Canada's credibility, reputation and capacity in the area.

Natural resources and environment: following the 1992 Rio initiative, debt conversion agreements have been signed with Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua. A regional natural resources program is in planning, building on Canadian capacity and experience in the region in forestry, water, and agriculture.

Economic modernization: major planned CIDA programs will support Canadian and Central American institutions promoting regional integration and modernization of the productive sector (Costa Rica) through the Canadian private sector.

Regional Energy: A regional program complementary to the regions energy investment program, building on a decade of Canadian experience in Honduras and Nicaragua.

KEY PROGRAMMING ISSUES

Concentrating resources in key strategic areas;

Supporting Central American regional integration and accession to NAFTA through economic modernization programs;

Internal political instability and poverty remains of critical concern in Nicaragua and Guatemala.

EL SALVADOR

CANADIAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- a) to support democratization, human rights and national reconciliation in El Salvador;
- b) to support poverty alleviation through the economic re-integration of ex-combatants.

PRINCIPAL CIDA ACTIVITIES

Since 1990, CIDA has committed \$8.0 million to bilateral development assistance in El Salvador.

In place since 1992 is a \$3.1 million Interim Democratic Development and Human Rights Fund, which has supported agencies implementing the peace process and economic re-integration of ex-combatants. A recent initiative funded under this envelope is the NGO Electoral Observation Mission (COPADES), coordinated by the Central America Monitoring Group. CIDA contributed \$21,110 to this activity.

A \$25 million Social Reconstruction program was approved, and a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Government of El Salvador. Selection of an executing agency is currently before the Minister. This program will build on previous Canadian contributions in El Salvador, is complementary to the National Reconstruction Plan, and consolidates a new social democracy through implementation of the Peace Accords. A \$20.7 million fund accessible to both Canadian and Salvadoran nongovernmental organizations forms the core of the program.

In 1993, a debt conversion facility was established (\$8.3 million) and a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Government of El Salvador. Funds generated through this mechanism will be used for environmental projects.

Approximately \$1.2 million was disbursed in 1992/93 through Canadian non-governmental organizations. International Humanitarian Assistance in CIDA disbursed \$790,000 from 1991 to 1993 for projects with displaced persons, refugees, and ex-combatants, through Interpares, the International Red Cross Society, the UNDP and CUSO.

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- 2 -

A Canada Fund of \$200,000 is complementary to the bilateral program and supports human rights activities and local development.

BACKGROUND

In the 1970s, the CIDA program in El Salvador was delivered through traditional line of credit programs. Bilateral assistance was suspended in 1980 under a rapidly deteriorating human rights situation and the murder of Archbishop Romero, a strong advocate of human rights.

Despite opposition from the Canadian non-governmental community, bilateral assistance was reinstated in 1986, delivered exclusively through the non-governmental channel. The Canadian Hunger Foundation (CHF) undertook to manage counterpart funds generated by lines of credit. From 1986 to 1992, no Canadian bilateral assistance was provided through the government.

In anticipation of a negotiated peace, a Canadian Cooperation Office was opened in San Salvador in 1990 to manage the Canada Fund of \$350,000. At the same time, CHF was designated as the executing agency for a Program of Support to Community Development (PADECO).

In January 1992, a decade of civil war ended with the signature of the United Nations-mediated Peace Accords, an historic agreement between the government of El Salvador and the insurgent guerrilla, the FMLN. Following a World Bank Consultative Group meeting in Washington in March 1992, Canada was quick to respond with a \$5 million bilateral program in support of democratic development and human rights. This program consisted of an extension to the PADECO program and the establishment of the Interim Democratic Development Fund.

Within the historic context of the March 20, 1994 election, CIDA has supported the electoral process through voter education through NGOs, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, and a consortium of Canadian NGOs (CAMG) as electoral observers. CIDA also supports monitoring of the electoral process through funding to IEJES, a Salvadoran NGO working in judicial reform and key member of the Junta de Vigilancia.

The bilateral program meets regularly with Canadian NGO reference groups to obtain their views on the situation in Central America, mainly through the CCIC, ICHRDD (International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development) and CAMG (Central America Monitoring Group).

.../3

- 3 -

Given the end of the Interim Fund for Democratic Development and in anticipation of establishing programming priorities for the Social Reconstruction Program, CIDA staff undertook an evaluation exercise in January 1994 and are completing a report: ***Lessons Learned from the CIDA Bilateral Program in El Salvador: 1990-93***. Fortuitously, another perspective on the program is available in a recent CAPA (Canada-Caribbean-Central America Policy Alternatives) paper ***Canadian Assistance in El Salvador: a Contribution to Peace Building***.

CANADIAN PRESENCE IN EL SALVADOR

The Canadian Cooperation Office is managed on behalf of CIDA by locally contracted personnel and managed by Jorge Garza.

The Canadian Hunger Foundation Program, PADECO, is managed in the field by a locally contracted Salvadoran, Abdon Aguillon.

Canadian NGOs support many community development, displaced persons, refugees, and human rights projects in El Salvador. Funding from the Partnership Branch of CIDA to Canadian NGOs includes the Jesuit Centre for Social Faith and Justice, Interpares, OXFAM-Canada, the Presbyterian Church, Camrose International Centre, Développement et Paix, the Steelworkers Humanity Fund, Horizons of Friendship, Lutheran World Federation, Foster Parents Plan, and the Foundation for International Training.

BILATERAL PROJECTS

1. The **Community Development (PADECO) program**, managed by the Canadian Hunger Foundation (CHF) was begun in 1990 and extended to 1994 with funding increased to a total of \$4.9 million. Following signature of the Peace Accords, CHF specifically targeted its rural community development program to displaced persons and ex-combatants. This project will terminate in May 1994.

2. In 1992, CIDA also established the **Interim Fund for Democratic Development and Human Rights Program** of \$2,6 million. This program supports new agencies and nongovernmental organizations created for the implementation of the Peace Accords, and economic integration of ex-combatants. A \$0.5 million extension to this project has recently been approved.

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- 4 -

Activities include:

Strengthening democratic institutions: CIDA has supported agencies such as COPAZ responsible for promoting consensus and implementing the peace plan (\$261,000) and the Procuraduria de Derechos Humanos (\$500,000), responsible for protecting civil and political rights. The Investigative Unit into Illegally Armed Groups (death squads) is also funded by CIDA (\$100,000).

Civil society and organizations: CIDA has supported non-governmental agencies working to modernize the legal codes of the country through IEJES (\$344,000) and national cooperative federations organizing communities around economic productivity.

Political participation: CIDA supported preparation and voter registration for the March 20 election for the executive, legislative assembly and municipal governments, through the Supreme electoral Tribunal (\$100,000); Procuraduria de Derechos Humanos (\$100,000); and IEJES, the Institute for Judicial Studies of El Salvador (\$131,376). CIDA recently provided \$21,110 to the Canadian NGO Electoral Observer Project, under the coordination of CAMG (Central America Monitoring Group).

3. SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM: This five year, \$25 million program is planned to consolidate the implementation of the peace accords and economically productive activities for ex-combatants.

CHALLENGES FOR THE CIDA PROGRAM

CIDA has prided itself on its special niche in El Salvador, and taken pride at being present in a constructive way at the birth of the new era in Salvadoran history. It is now time to redefine that niche, to focus the program to begin the difficult business of consolidating democracy. CIDA will have to offer consistent and high quality support to chosen partners within El Salvador.

POLIGONO INDUSTRIAL - DON BOSCO

SAN SALVADOR - EL SALVADOR

Briefing Note prepared by the Canadian Hunger Foundation 16/02/94

Located in Colonia Iberia, one of the worst slum areas of San Salvador, the Poligono Industrial Don Bosco is an industrial complex comprised of ten micro-enterprises organized under a production cooperative system. Each micro-enterprise is a separate business unit responsible to its members/workers and is a member of the umbrella body governing the common interests of all cooperatives.

The ten enterprises include carpentry, auto mechanics, aluminum casting, metal working, shoe making, sewing, plastic recycling, printing, silk screening, and a bakery. Goods produced by the cooperatives include all kinds of fine wood furniture, cast aluminum garden furniture, aluminum cookware, extruded plastic cord for chair making and plastic shoe soles, as well as bakery items, clothes, children's shoes and printed brochures, magazines, menus and advertising material. Markets for these goods have been readily available in San Salvador and the surrounding area. In the case of the shoe making cooperative, it has been able to secure contracts for export to the United States.

In 1986, the Poligono Industrial was just an idea (with no money) of a Salesian priest who had been working with slum youth. Knowing of their desperate futures surrounded by drugs, prostitution, petty crime, and homelessness, the creation of small enterprises would not only generate income and employment but would provide skill training for the jobless and often homeless youth of Colonia Iberia.

With a 1987 seed grant of \$285,000 Cdn for the development of infrastructure from the El Salvador - Canada Development Fund, the counterpart fund managed by the Canadian Hunger Foundation, the Poligono Industrial was then able to secure help and financing from the Government of El Salvador for land and the clearing of land, and from the Governments of Germany and Spain for equipment. This enabled the start up of the first five microenterprises which employed 50 residents of Colonia Iberia.

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- 2 -

Since the first grant in 1987, Canada has made two additional grants to Poligono Industrial Don Bosco: a \$83,000 Cdn grant in 1988 to purchase equipment for the expanding printing workshop, and a grant in 1992 under the PADECO project of \$77,595 Cdn for the expansion of five workshops that enabled the Poligono Industrial to become a training centre for future poligonos industriales to be located in Chalantengo, Morazan, Apopa, and Sonsonate. Also in 1992, a grant under the PADECO project was provided to EDYTRA; the foundation created to replicate this pilot project in other cities of El Salvador and Central America, for the training of the first 42 members of the Chalantengo Poligono Industrial and the purchase of the primary materials for establishing the initial enterprises.

Today, Poligono Industrial Don Bosco employs 500 people from Colonia Iberia and has helped transform the worst kind of slum into a bustling and vibrant community. In addition to the spirit of cooperation and employment that has brought a sense of optimism and hope to this community of 15,000, 15 % of annual profits from each of the enterprises is contributed towards development projects in Colonia Iberia. As the first Industrial Cooperative Complex in Central America, Poligono Industrial Don Bosco and EDYTRA are being called on to replicate this success in other cities of El Salvador and neighbouring countries in the region. The Chalantengo Poligono Industrial has already established two enterprises employing 38 members/workers and has completed the feasibility studies for establishing three additional enterprises. EDYTRA is in the final negotiating stages with other donors to begin a Poligono Industrial in Apopa. Finally, the Education Ministry of the Government of El Salvador has provided EDYTRA with the authorization to establish a technical institute for industrial enterprise workers that will enable cooperative members to attain their high school diplomacy, two year technical degrees and be trained as the future managers of Poligonos Industriales.

CANADIAN RED KIDNEY BEANS TO EL SALVADOR

ISSUE

El Salvador newspapers reported that red beans donated by Canada two years ago were being burnt after having spoiled in storage.

BACKGROUND

In the fall of 1991, the World Food Program (WFP) purchased in Canada 1,252 MT of red kidney beans in 50 kilo bags for their El Salvador regular project "Settlement and re-settlement of displaced persons". Funds came from Canada's annual core funding to WFP.

When the Government of El Salvador took possession of the Canadian beans on arrival in November 1991, the quality of 531 MT of those beans were questioned. The bags were humid (it was in the midst of the raining season). micro-organisms quickly started to develop in the bags. WFP was informed and the bags were sorted out. The beans were found not to be acceptable for human consumption.

The Government and WFP replaced the damaged commodities by other commodities they had in stock and the project activities started as planned. The Government and WFP then discussed possible uses for the spoiled beans. The National School of Agriculture obtained 105 MT of beans to conduct a test in which they would use the beans as fertilizer. Those are the beans referred to in the local press. Some 122 MT were sold for industrial use. The rest was sold as feed for animals and the proceeds were used to purchase beans locally for the project.

RESPONSE

FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS, CANADA HAS BEEN PROVIDING RED BEANS TO THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO SUPPORT A DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AIMED AT SUPPORTING THE RE-SETTLEMENT OF DISPLACED PERSONS.

UNFORTUNATELY, 531 METRIC TONS OF BEANS FROM THE FIRST SHIPMENT IN NOVEMBER 1991 WERE DAMAGED AT THE PORT. MICRO-ORGANISMS DEVELOPED IN THE BAGS AS A RESULT OF HUMIDITY.

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- 2 -

THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM REPLACED THOSE BAGS WITH COMMODITIES THEY HAD IN THEIR STOCKS AND THE PROJECT ACTIVITIES TOOK PLACE AS PLANNED. SOME OF THE SPOILED BEANS WERE SOLD FOR INDUSTRIAL USES OR AS ANIMAL FEED AND THE REST WAS GIVEN TO THE NATIONAL SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE TO CONDUCT AN EXPERIMENT. MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THE SCHOOL IS TESTING THE POSSIBILITY OF CONVERTING THOSE BEANS INTO FERTILIZER.

CANADA/EL SALVADOR BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS

Overview:

El Salvador is the smallest and the most densely populated country in Central America. With a goods and services market estimated at roughly US\$ 1.5 billion, El Salvador offers excellent opportunities for the Canadian business sector. Our trade relationship with El Salvador is on a path of steady growth. In 1993, bilateral trade between Canada and El Salvador increased by more than 30% from the previous year, amounting to \$35 million. Our imports of \$15 million (up by 18%) were comprised of coffee products (60%), textiles and electrical components. Our exports of \$20 million (up by 60%) consisted of one third wheat and one third newsprint, and were somewhat more diversified relative to previous years.

Main issue:

The Salvadorian Government is planning to prohibit the use of asbestos products. This decision follows a misrepresentation by the local USAID office and the Swiss-owned Eureka of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals judgement, which overturned the 1989 U.S EPA asbestos ban rule.

Swiss Eternit, the holding company of Eureka, originally made its fortune with asbestos-cement products. It has since been active in buying asbestos production plants throughout Central America and converting them to cellulose-based fibre-cement technology. If they succeed in having asbestos products prohibited in El Salvador, it may pave the way for a ban throughout Latin America (representing 15% of the Canadian asbestos export market). We already know that Swiss Eternit has started lobbying actively other countries such as Venezuela.

Points to register:

- Asbestos-cement products are still the most effective and least expensive products available to Salvadorian industries. They are easy to manufacture and they use both local material and human resources.
- There is no restriction on the use of asbestos-cement products in the U.S.
- The Salvadorian Government can count on the assistance of the Canadian Government and the Canadian Asbestos Industry in the form of information exchanges and training sessions.
- We understand that Entel is interested in the SR Telecom technology, the world leader in rural telecommunications systems. This technology would

enhance the development of the telecommunication network in El Salvador and serve to expand our bilateral trade and technological relationship.

REFUGEE ISSUES IN GUATEMALA AND EL SALVADOR

Issue:

Canada maintains innovative and high profile special refugee programmes in Guatemala and El Salvador. Although they are gradually being scaled down, those programmes remain an important component of Canada's international humanitarian policies .

Background:

In 1984 the Canadian government implemented innovative special refugee programmes in Guatemala and El Salvador in response to the multitude of human rights abuses committed in total impunity by local military and paramilitary forces. Those programmes, which allow local selection of people being persecuted for their political beliefs, have gained huge credibility amongst local and Canadian NGOs active in the defence of human rights in Central America. One key element is the Fast Track programme which allows the most urgent cases, whose very lives are in danger, to be quickly moved out of the region to safety in Canada within a few days after having contacted the Embassy. Dozens of people have benefited from this programme, which has greatly contributed to the credibility of Canadian human rights policies in the area. The core programmes for Designated Class and Convention refugees have allowed thousands of refugees to start new lives in Canada in the past ten years. However, improved political stability and the gradual return to democracy in the region have resulted in the reduction of the annual refugee quotas for the region. 1825 Central American refugees were accepted in 1991, 1400 in 1992 and 1015 in 1993. For 1994 we expect to accept 500.

As a result of the Guatemalan armed conflict, particularly during the early 1980s, an estimated 100,000 people, mostly indigenous peasants, sought refuge in Mexico. Of those, some 45, 000 have been identified and officially recognized as refugees by the Mexican authorities, and have been receiving international assistance coordinated through the UNHCR. At present, about half of the recognized refugees are lodged in camps located in the Mexican state of Chiapas, and the remainder in states of Campeche and Quintana Roo.

In October of 1992, following a period of negotiations, representatives of the recognized Guatemalan refugees and the government of Guatemala signed an Accord to govern repatriation, both individual and collective, under conditions of safety and dignity. Canada participates in the process as a member of the International Observer Group which was established as part of a mediation/conciliation mechanism under the Accord. the first collective repatriation of some 2500 refugees under the Accord took place on January 20, 1993, followed by another 2800 in two different groups, one on December 8, 1993 and another on January 12, 1994. Although relations between the government and the refugees have improved significantly under the De León Carpio government, major

obstacles to a successful conclusion of the process still exist, particularly related to the acquisition of land for resettlement.

Canadian Position:

The special Canadian programmes constitute a valuable demonstration of the Canadian government's efforts aimed at promoting the cause of democracy and human rights in the region . They also address the issue of the total impunity under which human rights violations take place, by offering sanctuary in Canada to several key witnesses who have testified against such abuses. Canada will continue to be strongly supportive of the repatriation of refugees from Mexico to Guatemala under the terms of the agreed Accord.

Points to Register:

- Although they are being scaled down because of improved political and social conditions in Central America, we remain committed to our refugee programmes in the area.
- These special programmes are remarkably efficient and flexible. Local selection of refugees creates some risks but offers the advantage of ensuring that the claims for refuge in Canada are bona fide.
- Owing to its generous and compassionate approach to refugee issues and its good track record - i.e our Fast Track programme - Canada has a high profile in the region and enjoys good credibility with NGOs.
- These programmes are very sensitive and are quite unpopular amongst the hardliners of the right and extreme right in both countries, thus creating a latent personal security risk for Canadian officers in charge.
- As a member of the International Observer Group, Canada will continue to be strongly supportive of the repatriation of refugees from Mexico to Guatemala.

SALVADOR REFUGEE CLAIMANTS

Issue:

The potential removal of fifty Salvadoran refugee claimants in Canada to El Salvador.

Background:

A group of Salvadoran refugee claimants residing in Montreal, whose claims of persecution in El Salvador were found to lack foundation but who claim to be afraid of being removed to their country, have appealed to Citizenship and Immigration Minister Sergio Marchi for a review of their cases. These people are arguing that the human rights situation in their country has deteriorated significantly since the signing of the peace agreements in 1992 and that their lives are in danger if they are returned to El Salvador. They are supported in their appeal by Bloc Quebecois MP Oswaldo Nunez himself a former political refugee from Chile. As a result, on February 2, George Tsai, Deputy Minister Inland Service, has requested that removal proceedings be suspended while Immigration Canada reviews each case individually to determine whether anyone is at risk. As a measure of comparison, from January to December, 1993, 111 persons were removed to El Salvador.

Canadian Position:

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) considers that while there is evidence of random violence in El Salvador as there is in other Central American countries, the political situation has not changed significantly over the past year and that there are not sufficient grounds to halt the removals of persons who cannot, after lengthy review, establish a claim for refugee status. However, in this particular instance CIC has suspended removals pending a review of conditions in El Salvador. This procedure is neither a moratorium nor an amnesty but merely a reassessment of the risks these individuals face in El Salvador.

Points to Register:

- Removals to El Salvador have not been stopped. They have been merely suspended pending a reevaluation by Citizenship and Immigration Canada of the situation in that country.
- Last year from January to December, 111 persons were removed to El Salvador.

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- 2 -

- As far as CIC is concerned while criminal and political violence have surged in the past year in El Salvador as in all Central American countries, the situation does not warrant a halt to removals of failed refugee claimants from that country.

ADOPTION PROGRAMMES IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Issue:

International adoptions by Canadians are growing in Central America but are complicated by the lack of bilateral agreements between Canada and the governments of Guatemala and El Salvador, along with recurrent problems with corruption and fraud.

Background:

The immigration section in the Canadian Embassy in Guatemala is dealing with a growing caseload of adoptions numbering over a 100 per year. The demand from North American and European adoptive parents far exceeds supply. Adoptions in Central America are a very lucrative business and prospective parents are expected to disburse from 10 to 20, 000 dollars per child. Local lawyers and consultants who handle most adoptions usually have a loose code of ethics and are also well connected politically. Combined with lax local laws regulating adoptions, it creates fertile ground for corruption, fraud or even the abduction of babies. If local governments, particularly in Guatemala, have been slow reacting to accusations of corruption and ensuing scandals, the local media have not wasted time criticizing foreigners wishing to adopt local children, and accusing them of stealing babies. In addition, rumours about adopted babies being used in organ trafficking surface with regularity. It is in Canada's interest to regulate these adoptions carefully to avoid such criticism.

Canadian Position:

Desirous of soothing local sensitivities and of maintaining a viable adoption programme, the Canadian Embassy has developed its own control mechanism aimed at protecting the adopted babies, their biological and their adoptive parents. The Embassy is actively seeking out fraud while maintaining an efficient system to process adoption cases. At the same time, the Embassy has established a network of contacts with local ministries and high level officials in order to exert pressure aimed at concluding bilateral MOUs and promoting the reform of local adoption laws and regulations. This approach has succeeded in a modest way in El Salvador but not in Guatemala.

Points to Register:

- The adoption programme is a highly sensitive component of our immigration programme in the region.
- International adoptions are growing but are fraught with problems of corruption and misrepresentation by the local press.

- The Canadian Embassy has addressed the problems by setting up its own regulating and check mechanisms.
- Through its high level contacts in local governments the Embassy has reached agreement with El Salvador. Salvadoran officials are to be praised for their co-operation.
- We have been less successful in Guatemala and Guatemalan officials should be encouraged to work closely with our Embassy.

PARTNERSHIP FOR DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT (PDD)

Issue:

While the PDD has had some success in providing a forum for dialogue between Central American and partner countries on democratic and economic development, the future of the initiative is uncertain.

Background:

Following the success of the Esquipulas peace process, the PDD was conceived as a means of providing Central American countries with ongoing support and assistance in their efforts to strengthen democratic and economic institutions. The U.S. Administration, which was the PDD's chief architect, also saw the process as a means of keeping the Administration and Congress engaged in Central America, in part by drawing in other donors (especially the Japanese) to take on more "burden-sharing". Officially launched in April 1991, the PDD includes the Central American countries (including Panama), the U.S., Canada, Japan, the EC, Sweden, Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, the Inter-American Development Bank and the OAS.

In terms of structure, the PDD is made up of two working groups. Canada has co-chaired Working Group I on Democracy, while Japan has co-chaired Working Group II on Economic Development. Central American co-chairs have rotated among countries in the region. Working Group I has established panels to undertake studies and develop project proposals in such areas as administration of justice, human rights, electoral institutions, legislative institutions, reintegration of former guerrilla fighters and demining. Working Group II has considered such questions as statistics and information on trade and investment, trade and investment promotion, programmes to promote open markets and support for an open investment environment.

However, the PDD from its beginning has suffered from a variety of problems which have prevented the process from becoming truly self-sustaining. A number of Central American governments clearly have hoped that the PDD would lead to additional donor resources, despite repeated indications from donors that this was not the objective. The Central Americans also have had difficulty in coordinating among themselves in order to prepare properly for PDD meetings. For their part, some European members (notably France) have been concerned that the PDD might undercut their own bilateral consultation process with the Central Americans, and that they might become co-opted into following U.S. policy in Central America.

The result of these concerns has been a clear falling off in interest in the PDD among many of those involved. Although the last major PDD meeting (in Japan in March of 1993) was useful in promoting greater Japanese interest in

Central America and in agreeing on streamlined procedures for continuing certain PDD activities, there has been little sustained follow-up, either by donors or by the Central Americans. In addition, the U.S. Administration is reviewing its own policy on the PDD after consulting with Central American countries and receiving reports from its missions in the region. In the meantime, there have been no significant PDD meetings, nor are any specifically planned.

Position of El Salvador:

El Salvador has been an active participant in the PDD, having been a part of panels in both working groups and co-chairing Working Group II (economic development) in the past. El Salvador hosted a plenary meeting of the PDD in October 1992. As with other Central American countries, El Salvador is disappointed that the process has not resulted in additionality.

Position of Guatemala:

Initially, Guatemala was the most hesitant Central American member of the PDD, concerned that its own unsatisfactory human rights record would come under scrutiny and criticism. Since then, its position has moderated somewhat, and it has joined one of the panels in Working Group II. We also understand that Guatemala is to be the new Central American co-chair of Working Group I beginning in 1994. As with other Central American countries, Guatemala is disappointed that the process has not resulted in additionality.

Canadian Position:

Canada was one of the founding members of the PDD and has worked actively to improve its effectiveness. Canada hosted the second Plenary Meeting of the PDD in Ottawa in January 1992. We have co-chaired Working Group I since its inception and have participated in panels in both working groups. Canada is of the view that the PDD can be a useful instrument to: (a) keep Central America on the global agenda at a time when other regions are competing for international attention, and (b) serve as a forum for exchange of ideas and information between countries of the region and their friends. We do not see the PDD as a channel for additional aid to the region.

At this point, we are not certain of the continued viability of the PDD. A few countries such as Canada have expended much effort in the process, but the PDD still seems to require a disproportionate involvement by donor countries. At the moment, we are awaiting the outcome of the U.S. policy review and further direction from the Central Americans.

Points to Register:

- As one of the founding members of the PDD, Canada sees the process has having potential value in helping to ensure continued international attention on Central America and in promoting improved coordination between Central American countries and their friends.
- We do not see the PDD as a channel for additional aid.
- We have worked actively in the PDD from its inception, but remain unsure of the sustained commitment of other participants.
- For the time being, we are not planning new initiatives pending further direction from Central American Governments and the outcome of a policy review by the U.S. Administration.

GUATEMALA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. ITINERARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

B. GUATEMALA MAP AND FACT SHEETS

C. SCENARIO BRIEFS

1. Meeting with President
and Acting Foreign Minister
Biography of President de León
2. Meeting with Human Rights Ombudsman (Embassy to provide)
3. Meeting with Minister of Defence
Hemispheric Security
4. Meeting with NGOs
5. Meeting with Instancia Mediadora (Embassy to provide)

BACKGROUND BRIEFS

- D. Guatemalan Overview
- Guatemala: The Continuing Crisis (Embassy Report)
- E. Human Rights Situation
- 1994 UNCHR Guatemala Resolution
- F. The Peace Process
- G. Canadian Development Assistance Program
 1. Central America
 2. Guatemala
- H. Trade Relations

ITINERARY

WEDNESDAY APRIL 6, 1994

0700	Depart Ottawa (Air Canada 441) Ms Sylvia Gagnéux
0755	Arrive Toronto
0900	Depart Toronto (Air Canada 912) Secretary of State Stewart and Ms Gagnéux
1200	Arrive Miami
1500	Depart Miami (TACA 311)
1600	Arrive San Salvador Met by Ambassador Fox and Embassy staff
1800	Meeting with the <i>Junta de Vigilancia</i> (confirmed)
2000	Dinner with ONUSAL officials, hosted by Ambassador Fox (confirmed)

THURSDAY APRIL 7, 1994

0730	Breakfast with Human Rights Procurator (Ombudsman), Dr Carlos Molina (confirmed)
0830	Meeting with ARENA Presidential Candidate Armando Calderón (tentative)
1000	Meeting with President Alfredo Cristiani (confirmed)
1130	Meeting with CD/FMLN Presidential Candidate Rubén Zamora (tentative)
1300	Working lunch with leading local NGOs (at CIDA's Canadian Cooperation Office)
1500	Visit to CIDA supported urban community development project <i>Polígono Industrial Don Bosco</i>
1700	Private visit to Chapel of the Central American University
1915	Press scrum
1930	Reception for the Canadian Community

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- 2 -

FRIDAY APRIL 8, 1994

0600	Breakfast at Camino Real
0730	Leave for Comalapa Airport
0840	Departure to Guatemala City (TACA 210)
0920	Arrive Guatemala City
1015	Meeting with the President of Guatemala, Lic. Ramiro de León Carpio (confirmed)
1120	Meeting with Human Rights Procurator (Ombudsman), Lic. Mario García Laguardia (tentative)
1245	Tour of the Embassy
1300	Working Lunch with leading NGOs (confirmed)
1530	Meeting with the Minister of Defence, General Mario René Enriquez (confirmed)
1630	Meeting with the Instancia Mediadora (tentative)
1930	Press scrum at Camino Real
1945	Reception for the Canadian Community

SATURDAY APRIL 9, 1994

0715	Depart Guatemala City (UNITED 874) Ms Sylvia Gagnéux
0950	Depart Guatemala City (AVIATECA 910) Secretary of State Stewart
1150	Arrive Mexico City
1404	Depart Mexico City (AEROMEXICO 218)
1504	Arrive Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

Guatemala

General Description

Population: 10.3 million (1993)
Capital: Guatemala City: 1.1 mn (1993)
Pop. Growth Rate: 2.9% (1993e)

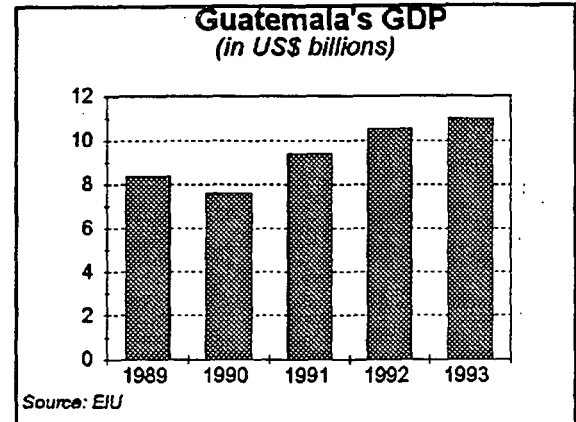
Total Area: 108,900 km²
Currency: 1C\$ = 4.39 quetzales
 (December 1993)

Language: Spanish (official), Mayan dialects

Literacy: 55% (63%M/47%F)

Life Expectancy: (61M/66F)

National Holiday: Sept 15
 (1821 Independence Day)



Political Data

Type of Government:

Republic of Guatemala; unitary republic with a unicameral Legislative Assembly with 166 members; presidential and legislative assembly elections held concurrently every 5 years.

Head of State:

President Ramiro de León Carpio (chosen by Congress in May 1993)

Minister of Foreign Relations: Martiza Ruiz de Vielman

Minister of Finance: Ana Ordonez de Molina

Minister of Development: Ricardo Castillo Sinibaldi

Main Political Parties: (# of seats in Chamber)

UCN -National Centre Union:41

DCG-Christian Democratic Party:27

MAS-Social Action Movement:18

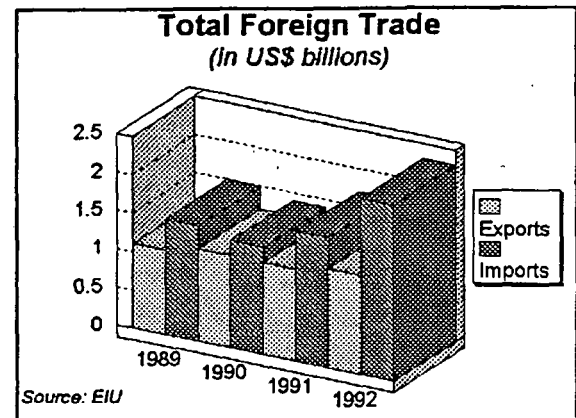
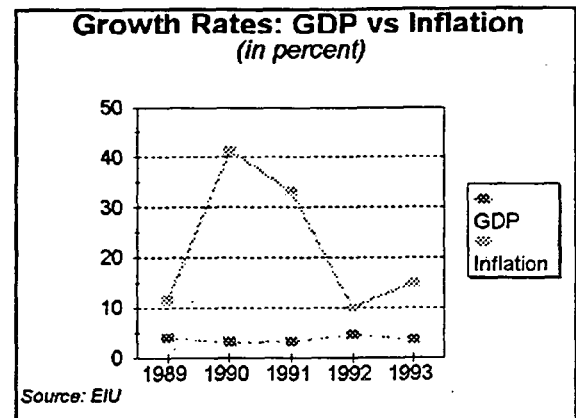
PAN-National Advancement Party:12

MLN/FAN-National Liberation Movement/Broad National Front:4

Others:14

Next Elections: End of Summer 1994 (Congress);
 Nov. 1995 (President)

Memberships: ECLAC, G-77, GATT, IADB, IMF, OAS, UN.



Economic Data

GDP: \$10.95 bn (1993e)
% Growth Rate: 3.5% (1993e); 4% (1994e)
\$ per Capita: \$930 (1993)

Guatemala

Inflation Rate: 15% (1993e); 12% (1994e)
Unemployment Rate: 11% (1993e)
External Debt: \$2.8 bn (1993e); \$3 bn (1994e)
Military Budget: \$113 mn (1990e)
Debt Held by Canada: \$16.2 mn (1993e)

Trade with Canada:

(C\$ millions)	1991	1992	1993
EXP. to Guatemala:	18.0	23.2	45.5
IMP. from Guatemala:	39.8	41.8	46.0
Balance:	-21.8	-18.6	-0.5

Major Canadian Imports from Guatemala:

Coffee, fresh fruit and vegetables (particularly bananas and peas), clothing, sesamum seeds, toilet soap.

Major Canadian Exports to Guatemala:

Newsprint and other paper products, wood pulp, polyethylene, polypropylene, chemicals (particularly metallic polyphosphates), dairy products (particularly milk powder and whey), paper and articles, metals and radioactive elements.

Canadian Direct Foreign Investment: US\$225 mn (June 1993e)

Visitors from Canada: 8,823 (August 1993)

Visitors to Canada: 2,000

Immigration to Canada: 2,200 (1991)

Diplomatic Representation

The Canadian Embassy in Guatemala:

13 Calle 8-44, Zona 10 Edyma Plaza (P.O. Box 400)
 Guatemala City, Guatemala
 TEL: (011-502-2) 336102 FAX: (011-502-2) 336148
 Trade Division Fax Number: (011-502-2) 336189
 TELEX: 5206
 Ambassador: James A. Fox

The Guatemalan Embassy in Canada:

130 Albert Street, Suite 1010
 Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5G4
 TEL: (613) 233-7237 FAX: (613) 233-0135
 Ambassador: Miriam Cabrera-Passarelli

Notes

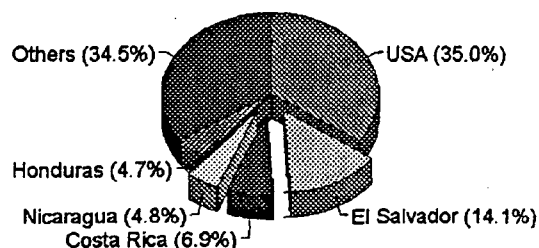
GDP - Gross Domestic Product.

e - estimate; f - forecast; p - projection.

All statistics in 1992 figures & all currency in US\$ unless otherwise indicated.

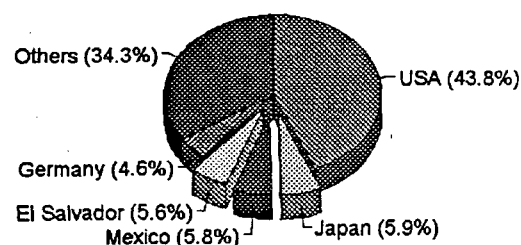
March 1994.

Guatemala's Major Markets
(Destination of Exports in 1992)



Source: EIU

Guatemala's Major Imports
(Origin of Imports in 1992)



Source: EIU

**MEETING WITH PRESIDENT DE LEÓN CARPIO
AND VICE-MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
BERNARDO AREVALO**

Setting:

You will be meeting with the President at a critical time in his term of office. Early (undoubtedly unrealistic) hopes that he would be able quickly to address the underlying problems of the civil war and human rights abuse have been largely disappointed. While it was almost inevitable that the very difficult circumstances in Guatemala would work against initial expectations, he also may have miscalculated the impact of his appearing to work too closely with the armed forces and the traditional Guatemalan elites. Nevertheless, many Guatemalans, including human rights activists, have not given up completely on the President. An important test will be the success of the peace talks that resumed in March. The President will also be preoccupied with discussions on Guatemala at the UN Human Rights Commission.

Vice-Minister Arévalo likely will be seeking ways of improving the bilateral relationship at the official level. The Guatemalan Government has floated the idea of a joint commission as a means of formalizing regular senior-level contacts. He may also wish to discuss Central American integration and NAFTA.

Key Messages:

- The central issue in Canada's relations with Guatemala remains human rights. Progress in this area will be the key determinant in the future evolution of our bilateral relationship.
- Canada is not merely an observer of events in Guatemala. We have been, and will continue to be, engaged bilaterally and multilaterally in encouraging respect for human rights and assisting in your efforts at democratic development.

Points to Register:

- You are well aware of the intense interest among many Canadians in what takes place in Guatemala. It is a subject that attracts among the highest volume of correspondence we receive on foreign affairs from the public, NGOs and Members of Parliament. The specific subjects are almost invariably the same: human rights and the peace process. That is why these issues remain at the core of our relations with Guatemala.
- We believe you have a real opportunity to address the fundamental issues in Guatemala. Your background, popularity and understanding of Guatemala's problems provide some unique advantages.

- The agenda you face is a large one, and I recognize that it will take much time to resolve all the issues. However, I think it is important to use the trust and respect you enjoy to make a clear beginning on the core problems of the civil war and human rights.

Peace Process

- Canada was pleased with the framework agreement reached in January between the Government and the URNG. We believe that the parties to the talks now have a rare window of opportunity to move ahead to a full peace agreement.
- We urge the parties to negotiate in good faith.
- We hope that a peace agreement will allow the Government to concentrate on improving the human rights situation.
- I would welcome your perspective on the current status of the negotiations.

Human Rights

- I would welcome your thoughts on how you envisage dealing with the issue of human rights.
- We note that when you were Human Rights Ombudsman, you declared that the PACs are unconstitutional. Since taking office as President, you have indicated that they should not be disbanded until there is a sustainable peace agreement. How does this stance respond to the clear concerns expressed by many Guatemalans about the role of the PACs ?
- Canada will continue to do what it can to support your efforts in the areas of human rights and democratic development. We are proceeding with a project to establish a \$1.5 million Democratic Development Fund to help Guatemala establish a stable and lasting democracy.

International Adoptions

- The adoption programme is a highly sensitive component of our immigration programme in the region.
- Internationals adoptions are growing but are fraught with problems of corruption and misperception by the local press.
- The Canadian Embassy has addressed the problems by setting up its own regulating and check mechanisms.

- We are anxious to conclude bilateral MOUs on adoptions and promoting the reform of local adoption laws and regulations. Thus far, we have met with limited response in the case of Guatemala, and would encourage Guatemalan officials to work more closely with our Embassy.
- I was interested in your Government's idea of a joint commission. We do have such an arrangement with some governments, but we do take a case-by-case approach on such matters. At the moment, I believe our existing channels of communication serve us well, but I would be willing to keep your proposal under review.

Central American Integration and NAFTA

- We congratulate the countries of Central America for their demonstrated interest in further liberalizing their trade and economic regimes, and look forward to seeing a continuation of these market-oriented reform efforts.
- Regarding the proposed study, "The Development of Technical Guidelines for the Modernization of Central American Trade Law Regimes", we are happy to have provided the terms of reference for this study, and encourage the Central American governments to seek the necessary funding through one of the international financial institutions.

(Responsive Only:)

- Canada has an indisputable commitment to strengthening global trade ties. Both NAFTA and the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round are steps in that direction. Unilateral preference agreements are now a thing of the past.
- NAFTA Article 2204 permits the accession of new partners. However, neither the criteria to determine which countries may accede to NAFTA, nor details of the accession process, have been decided.
- Possible criteria to decide which countries may accede include: the importance as a trading partner to NAFTA partners, openness of the economy, GATT-consistency of the trade regime, environmental and labour regimes and geographic location.

Partnership for Democracy and Development (Responsive):

- As one of the founding members of the PDD, Canada sees the process as having potential value in helping to ensure continued international attention on Central America and in promoting improved coordination between Central American countries and their friends.

- We do not see the PDD as a channel for additional aid.
- We have worked actively in the PDD from its inception, but remain unsure of the sustained commitment of other participants.
- For the time being, we are not planning new initiatives pending further direction from Central American Governments and the outcome of a policy review by the U.S. Administration.

Trade Relations

- I am pleased that your authorities have come to an understanding with Canada's EDC on the FEGUA loan. I understand the agreement is to be endorsed by the Guatemalan Congress, and I urge you to proceed with this endorsement as soon as possible in the interest of resolving this important issue.
- We are encouraged to see that your Congress has adopted new laws that provide a hospitable climate for business which should help to generate more trade between our two countries.

PRESIDENT RAMIRO DE LEÓN CARPIO

Profile:

Lawyer by education and a constitutional law specialist, Mr. de León Carpio, aged 52, has long been active in politics. He has always been an ardent supporter of Central American economic integration, as well as a passionate and honest defender of human rights in his country. These qualities contributed to his election by the Congress to the presidency after the failed coup attempt by President Serrano in May 1993.

Our Embassy in Guatemala provided financial support to the Procuraduría (Office of the Ombudsman) while Mr. de León was Procurador. As a result, Canadian officials in Guatemala have excellent relations with the President, who is aware of Canadian views concerning respect for human rights.

Personal Data

Age:	52
Status:	Married, to María Eugenia Morales de De León
Place of Birth:	Guatemala City

Education

Diploma:	Licenciatura in Juridical and Social Sciences; Specialization in Constitutional Law
Titles:	Lawyer and Notary Public

Academic Activities

Lecturer in Constitutional Law at the Faculty of Juricial and Social Sciences, "Rafael Landivar" Catholic University

Lecturer in Comparative Law at the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, "Rafael Landivar" Catholic University

Professional Activities

Lawyer (Penal, Civil and Labour Law) and Notary Public	1970-1989
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Administrative Activities

Consultant at the Bureau of Economic Integration (Marketing Section), Ministry of Economy	1967-1969
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Congressional Staff	1970-1974
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General Secretary at the State Council	1974-1978
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Legal Consultant at the Superintendence of Banks of Guatemala	1978-1981
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General Manager of the Association of Sugar Producers of Guatemala	1983
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Other Activities

Secretary of the Permanent Commission of Tariff	1968-1970
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Secretary of the National Commission of Economic Integration	1970
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Secretary of the Common Assembly of the Latin-American Parliament	1971
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Political Activities

Co-founder of the National Centre Political Party (UCN)	1983
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First Secretary of the UCN	1983-1986
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UCN Deputy at the Constitutional National Assembly	1984-1986
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Alternate President of the Constitutional National Assembly (which decreed the present Constitution)	1984-1986
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Procurador de los Derechos Humanos (Ombudsman of Human Rights)	1989-1993
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President of the Republic	June 1993-present
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MEETING WITH DEFENCE MINISTER MARIO RENE ENRIQUEZ MORALES

Setting:

Defence Minister Enriquez has spent his career in the Guatemalan armed forces, and at various times has been involved in the peace process (for example as a member of the Serrano Government's peace commission). Given the importance of the armed forces in the Guatemalan political scene, your meeting with Enriquez represents an excellent opportunity to register key Canadian messages on the current peace negotiations and human rights.

Key Messages:

- The central issue in Canada's relations with Guatemala remains human rights. Progress in the area will be the key determinant in the future evolution of our bilateral relationship.
- Canada is not merely an observer of events in Guatemala. We have been, and will continue to be, engaged bilaterally and multilaterally in encouraging respect for human rights and assisting where we can in finding a way of resolving the civil war.
- As a key institution in Guatemala, the military has an important role in supporting the development of a civil society.

Points to Register:

- You are undoubtedly aware of the intense interest among many Canadians in what takes place in Guatemala. It is a subject that attracts among the highest volume of correspondence we receive on foreign affairs from the public, NGOs and Members of Parliament. The specific subjects are almost invariably the same: human rights and the peace process.
- Many Canadians are especially concerned about the role of the PACs in human rights violations. I would welcome your thoughts on the future of the PACs.
- Canada was pleased with the framework agreement reached in January on the peace process. We are hopeful that the talks will indeed lead to a settlement by the end of 1994. You clearly have an important role in the peace process, and I would appreciate your thoughts on how you see your contribution.

- We believe that the armed forces can play a key role in supporting the building of a civil society. Given the significant place of the armed forces in Guatemala, I would appreciate your thoughts on how this might take place.
- As a member of the International Observer Group established under the 1992 accord on repatriation of refugees, Canada will continue to be strongly supportive of the repatriation of refugees from Mexico to Guatemala. We hope that the armed forces will lend their full support to this process.

Hemispheric Security

Issue

Despite some positive political developments, including the emergence of the Organization of American States (OAS) as the premier venue for dealing with regional security concerns, there are still significant challenges to be overcome in enhancing hemispheric security. The Latin-American civil-military relationship continues to be a source of instability: to a large extent it is where the concerns for fostering peace and security and promoting democracy converge. Other obstacles to regional security include: border tensions; guerilla insurgencies; weapons proliferation; and the fight against narco-trafficking.

Background

The Organization of American States (OAS) is the premier venue for dealing with regional affairs and inter-American issues. Only in recent years, however, has the OAS turned its focus to regional security issues in a systematic manner. The 1992 and 1993 General Assemblies adopted a series of ground-breaking resolutions which firmly placed hemispheric security questions on the OAS agenda and work programme. Canada made substantive contributions and provided much of the political leadership necessary to bring these issues forward to the General Assembly.

At the 1992 Nassau General Assembly, the OAS established a Special Committee on Hemispheric Security to focus on broader cooperative security and non-proliferation issues. At the 1993 General Assembly the Special Committee was tasked with intensifying its work, including through the establishment of working groups on selected themes, including non-proliferation, conventional arms transfers and conflict prevention.

Following preparatory discussions last year in Washington, the Special Committee held a meeting in March in Buenos Aires devoted to confidence building measures (CBMs) in the hemisphere. Canada provided \$30,000 towards the cost and served as rapporteur for the meeting. As the first gathering of its type in the region, the meeting generated several practical suggestions for the Special Committee to consider. By bringing together diplomats and military officials, the meeting also reinforced the desirability of engaging the military within the political dialogue and consultative process.

One issue that the OAS has yet to resolve is the future status of the Inter-American Defence Board (IADB). Created in 1942 following the attack on Pearl Harbour, the IADB was tasked with planning for the defence of the hemisphere. Its relations with the OAS are tenuous; the IADB receives approximately \$2 million from the OAS, but has no formal linkage to it. The 1993 General Assembly in Managua adopted a resolution calling for a full review of the IADB and its relation to the OAS.

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CANADIAN POSITION

Two of Canada's primary objectives in the Americas are to consolidate the recent democratic advances achieved by most countries of the region and to enhance hemispheric security. Joining the OAS in 1990 enabled Canada to pursue these objectives with renewed credibility. Within the organization we have worked to strengthen its role in hemispheric security issues and to consolidate the Special Committee as the principle forum for discussion and cooperation on these issues.

Having played a key role in setting up the Special Committee, we are now encouraging it to make practical contributions to security in the region in areas such as conflict prevention, including through the development of mechanisms for enhancing transparency in military activities. The March meeting on CBMs was an important first step for the Special Committee towards fulfilling its mandate and gave specific focus to its broad work programme.

Canada is also promoting greater cooperation between the OAS and the UN on issues relating to regional and global peace and security. These efforts are in keeping with the suggestions made by the UN Secretary General in his An Agenda for Peace.

Canada is not a member of the IADB and we question whether in its present form it is relevant to regional and global political realities. Still operating under its original mandate, and staffed almost exclusively by senior military personnel, the Board is a throw back to an earlier era. Recently, the Board has made some modest efforts to become more active in security issues, such as its involvement in de-mining activities in the region. Last year, Canada contributed five medical kits to the IADB for use in its de-mining operations in Nicaragua.

Canada has criticized the \$2 million in resources allocated by the OAS to the IADB, particularly as the Board has no formal linkage to the OAS. We welcome the upcoming review and believe that the IADB needs: clear political and civilian control, strict guidelines for accountability, a revised and well-defined mandate flowing from the political process in the hemisphere and the allocation of a modest budget appropriate to its newly-defined tasks.

Guatemalan Position

Largely consumed by its own domestic political concerns, Guatemala has not been a proactive participant in the evolving security discussions within the OAS. When pressed to do so the country has made a contribution -- at last

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- 3 -

November's preparatory meeting for the Special Committee's meeting on CBMs Guatemala presented a Central American jointly prepared text on the Central American peace process. Guatemala attended and was an active participant at the March meeting.

As a member of the IADB, Guatemala will likely resist any attempt to vest the Board with either a more relevant or an expanded mandate.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- CANADA STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE RENEWED ATTENTION BEING PAID BY THE OAS TO HEMISPHERIC SECURITY ISSUES AS REFLECTED BY THE CREATION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HEMISPHERIC SECURITY.
- WE HAVE ENCOURAGED THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO FOCUS ITS EFFORTS IN DIRECTIONS WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE CONCRETELY TO SECURITY IN THE REGION. THE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES WILL BE KEY TO ENSURING THAT THE COMMITTEE'S WORK IS RELEVANT AND USEFUL TO REGIONAL COUNTRIES.
- THE MARCH MEETING ON REGIONAL CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES WAS AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP IN FULFILLING THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S MANDATE. WE WERE PLEASED THAT GUATEMALA ATTENDED AND WAS ABLE TO SHARE WITH OTHER OAS MEMBER STATES ITS UNIQUE EXPERIENCES.
- FROM THE IDEAS GENERATED AT THAT MEETING WE HOPE THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE WILL DEVELOP SOME PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER ACTION, WHICH WE CAN CONSIDER AT THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
- WE ALSO HOPE THE MOMENTUM AND POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE GENERATED BY THIS MEETING WILL CARRY FORWARD TO OUR DISCUSSIONS ON OTHER SECURITY ISSUES BEFORE THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE.
- CANADA WELCOMES THE DECISION BY THE OAS TO REVIEW THE ROLE AND OPERATION OF THE IADB.
- WE BELIEVE THE IADB NEEDS A REVISED AND WELL-DEFINED MANDATE, STRICT GUIDELINES FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND THE ALLOCATION OF A MODEST BUDGET APPROPRIATE TO ITS NEWLY-DEFINED TASKS.

GUATEMALA

MEETING WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Participants

Ms Nineth Montenegro
Mutual Support Group (GAM)

Rosalina Tuyuc
National Union of Guatemalan Widows (CONAVIGUA)

Mr René Poitvin
Latin American School of Social Studies (FLACSO)

Ms Raquel Zelaya
Research Association for Social Studies (ASIES)

Ms Helen Mack
Myrna Mack Foundation

Mr Carlos Aldana
Archbishop's Human Rights Office (ODHA)

Mr Curruchiche Otzoi
Permanent Council of Mayan Communities (CPPM)

Mr Marco Tulio Gutiérrez
New Dawn (Nuevo Amanecer)

Background

To the disappointment of many observers, a major improvement in respect for human rights did not follow the appointment of the former Human Rights Ombudsman, Ramiro de León, as President of Guatemala. Threats, harassment and violence continue to be directed at the members of Guatemalan non-governmental organizations which promote human rights, indigenous communities and economic development.

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- 2 -

KEY MESSAGE

- Canada is committed to assisting the advancement of democracy and respect for human rights in Guatemala. There is a large and demonstrative public constituency which supports Canadian involvement in improving social conditions in Guatemala.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- How can the international community, and particularly Canada, best contribute to the democratization and development processes in Guatemala ?
- In your opinion, will the human rights situation improve if the Guatemalan government and the URNG conclude a peace agreement ?

GUATEMALA OVERVIEW

Guatemala has the largest population of the countries of Central America - 9.5 million. The majority (up to 75%) is composed of indigenous peoples of Mayan descent, speaking twenty-two native languages. Control of political and economic activity by the "Ladino" minority has resulted in extreme socio-economic disparities.

These disparities helped generate a thirty-three year insurgency war which only now appears to be approaching possible resolution.

The insurgency became a formidable military-political force in the late 1970s and, in 1982, four insurgent organizations formed the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG). The government counter-insurgency campaign has limited the URNG mostly to peripheral regions but at the cost of the militarization of society, a depressed economy, and a serious record of human rights violations. More than a million Guatemalans were displaced internally and at least 45,000 refugees fled across the border to Mexico.

The democratic election of President Vinicio Cerezo in 1985 ended thirty years of direct military rule, but the armed forces remained a powerful force in society. Central American regional efforts at peace, led by President Arias of Costa Rica, resulted in the Esquipulas Accords of 1986 and 1987, in which the Central American governments agreed to seek an end to the region's civil wars through negotiation. With this impetus, Guatemala established a "Commission of National Reconciliation" (CNR). With a view to establishing a dialogue aimed at peace, the CNR convened a series of meetings between the URNG and other segments of Guatemalan society.

Jorge Serrano was elected President in January 1991 and took office in Guatemala's first ever democratic transfer of power. In April 1991, the President unveiled his "Initiative for Total Peace", which led to the first round of government-URNG negotiations. The ensuing "Guatemala Accords" established an eleven-point agenda, and the talks reached agreement on the first item (democratization). The talks however stalled afterwards and the impasse dampened hopes that a definitive accord would emerge soon.

The fate of the refugees was more promising. In October 1992, agreement was reached between the Guatemalan government and a committee representing refugees who had fled to Mexico. Under this agreement, the refugees were able to return to Guatemala. Canada became one of the four members of International Consultation and Support Group for the Return of the Guatemalan Refugees (GRICAR), the other three being Mexico, France and Sweden.

The return of some 2,500 refugees began in mid-January, 1993. The Canadian Ambassador and two Canadian Members of Parliament were present at the border to witness its commencement. A second group of refugees returned to Guatemala in mid-December 1993 and the latest one, in mid-January 1994.

In the meantime, President Serrano faced increasing difficulties. On May 25, 1993, the president suspended the constitution and dissolved the Congress. After several days of uncertainty, the Congress chose as the country's new President one of its best known human rights advocates. For three years, Mr. Ramiro de León Carpio had been Guatemala's human rights Ombudsman, during which time he had been an outspoken and dedicated voice for the promotion of a civil society.

After an impasse on constitutional reform was overcome in November 1993, the President was able to concentrate on the peace negotiation with the URNG. A framework agreement with the rebels was reached on January 15, 1994, in Mexico City, and the formal talks resumed at the end of February. The President's declared intention is to reach a lasting peace agreement before the end of 1994.

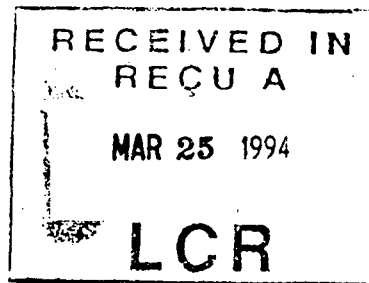
According to the agreement reached with the Congress, parliamentary elections are to be held in late summer of this year. This agreement was put to the test in a referendum at the end of January. In spite of a high percentage of people who refused to vote, more than three-quarters of those voting supported the President's initiative.

Canada/Guatemala Relations

Guatemala has been a focal point for human rights concerns for decades. Canada has tried to express its strong position on human rights with signals of support for the democratic process. As part of Canada's policy focus on Latin America, our mission in Guatemala was upgraded to full embassy status in 1991, under the supervision of a resident ambassador.

Canada imported \$41.7 million worth of goods from Guatemala in 1992, mainly coffee, fruit, clothing, and flowers. Canada exported \$23.1 million worth in 1992, largely consisting of pulp and paper, fertilizer and plastics.

The bilateral aid Canada provides to Guatemala is all channelled through Canadian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to local NGOs and community groups, and is managed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Canadian Embassy. Canada takes account of human rights abuses in evaluating requests for aid and acknowledges that the situation in Guatemala requires continual monitoring and assessment. The decision to provide bilateral aid for projects in Guatemala is based on the conviction that social and economic development are essential to the achievement of a just society.



P R O T E C T E D

FM GTMLA YVGR0149 24MAR94

TO EXTOTT/LCR DELIVER BY 251200

INFO SJOSE MXICO BGOTA CRCAS STAGO LIMA BAIRS BRSLA CIDAHULL/BML
EANDIHULL/ORD/ORH/OSWL/RAB FINOTT/IFD PILLAROTT/RAP/RTA/RTI
PCOOTT/IAS

TT NDHQOTT/DIPOL DE OTT

TT WDOAS-WEGR PRMNY-WKGR DE COS

DISTR LGB LGD LGT IMH IMU ISO EEA

REF OURTEL YVGR0090 18FEB

---GUATEMALA: THE CONTINUING CRISIS

SUMMARY: UNABLE TO CONTROL CONGRESS, WHICH IS OPENLY DRAGGING ITS
FEET ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ACCORD REACHED LAST NOV, AND CHALLENGED
BY PUBLIC SERVICE STRIKE ACTION, PRES DE LEON CARPIO APPEARS MORE
AND MORE DEPENDENT ON SUPPORT OF ARMED FORCES TO PROP UP HIS HIGHLY
UNSTABLE ADMINISTRATION. RECENTLY ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENTS IN
MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR (GOBERNACION) APPEAR TO INDICATE A
RESURGENCE OF MILITARY CONTROL OVER CIVILIAN SECURITY FORCES, THUS
REVERSING THE TREND BEGUN IN EARLY DAYS OF PRESENT GOVT.
REINITIATED PEACE TALKS WITH URNG OFFER ONE OF FEW RAYS OF HOPE IN
WHAT IS INCREASINGLY PESSIMISTIC ATMOSPHERE.

2. REPORT: ALMOST FOUR MONTHS AFTER CONCLUSION OF CHURCH BROKERED
QUOTE GOVERNABILITY ACCORD UNQUOTE AND CLOSE TO TWO MONTHS AFTER
APPROVAL OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ON REFERENDUM, RELATIONS

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PAGE TWO YVGR0149 P R O T E C T E D

BETWEEN EXECUTIVE AND CONGRESS REMAIN CONFRONTATIONAL. OF ELEVEN LEGISLATIVE ITEMS WHICH CONGRESS HAD AGREED TO PROCESS BEFORE ITS SELF-INITIATED DISSOLUTION, ONLY TWO HAVE BEEN DISPOSED OF. ONE, APPROVAL OF 1994/95 GOVERNMENT BUDGET, WAS SUBSEQUENTLY VETOED BY PRESIDENT IN JANUARY, ON GROUNDS CONGRESS HAD ADDED UNWARRANTED AMOUNTS TO BUDGET OF JUDICIARY WHICH HAS BEEN WIDELY CRITICIZED AS CORRUPT. IT IS STILL UNCERTAIN WHETHER CONGRESS WILL PROCEED TO OVERRIDE VETO AT SOME POINT, OR SIMPLY LEAVE EXECUTIVE HOBbled WITH NOW IN APPROPRIATE ALLOCATIONS OF 1993/94 BUDGET.

3. CONGRESS HAS ALSO MANAGED TO APPROVE POSTPONEMENT OF ENTRY INTO FORCE OF NEW CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE TO 01 JUNE. CODE IS CORNERSTONE OF MUCH NEEDED OVERHAUL OF JUDICIAL SYSTEM, INTRODUCING SUCH FUNDAMENTAL REFORMS AS ORAL PROCEEDINGS AND PROSECUTORIAL RATHER THAN INQUISITORIAL SYSTEM IN CRIMINAL CASES. POSTPONEMENT WAS NEEDED IN ORDER TO EFFECT PARALLEL REFORMS TO OTHER GOVT INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED, SUCH AS THE PUBLIC MINISTRY AND THE EQUIVALENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERALS OFFICE (PROCURADURIA GENERAL DE LA NACION).

4. AMONGST CRITICAL LEGISLATIVE ACTION STILL NOT TAKEN BY CONGRESS, THERE ARE AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING LAW ON POLITICAL PARTIES, TO INTERNAL LAW OF CONGRESS, TO TAX CODE (IN ORDER TO IMPOSE STIFFER PENALTIES ON TAX EVADERS) AND TO LAWS APPROVING FOREIGN DEBT. LATTER ITEM HAD BEEN INTRODUCED BY EXECUTIVE, INTER ALIA, TO

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PAGE THREE YVGR049 P R O T E C T E D

RESOLVE OUTSTANDING ISSUE OF GTMLAN DEBT TO PARIS CLUB, AND IN WHICH CANADA (THRU EDC) IS A PARTICIPANT. DESPITE FACT THAT PARIS CLUB HAD GIVEN GTMLANS EXTENSION OF 31DEC93 DEADLINE TO 31MAR94 TO APPROVE NEGOTIATED BILATERAL DEBT RESCHEDULINGS, AND EXECUTIVE HAD SENT LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE TO CONGRESS THREE WEEKS AGO, INDICATIONS ARE THAT CONGRESS WILL NOT/NOT MEET DEADLINE, AND INDEED CERTAIN CONGRESSMEN (INCLUDING HEAD OF FINANCE COMMITTEE OBDULIO CHICHILLA VEGA) APPEAR DETERMINED TO PLAY DOMESTIC POLITICS WITH ISSUE.

5. TO TOP IT ALL OFF, THERE IS GROWING CONCERN DELAYS ARE PART OF DELIBERATE STRATEGY TO POSTPONE 1994 CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS THEMSELVES, WHICH SURPRISINGLY, IT IS POSSIBLE TO DO UNDER TERMS OF GOVERNABILITY ACCORD. DURING LAST STAGES OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH EXECUTIVE LAST NOV, CONGRESSIONAL DEL MANAGED TO CHANGE CRUCIAL WORDING ON TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS SIGNALLING TIME IN WHICH ELECTIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE. PREVIOUS LANGUAGE REQUIRED ELECTIONS TO HAPPEN NO MORE THAN 4 MONTHS AFTER SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL CALL FOR SUCH ELECTIONS TO TAKE PLACE. AMENDED WORDING STIPULATES ELECTIONS SHOULD OCCUR NO LESS/LESS THAN 4 MONTHS AFTER TSE CALL, THUS LEAVING NO DEADLINE FOR ELECTIONS TO BE HELD.

6. IN MEANTIME, EXECUTIVE HAS BEEN GRAPPLING DURING LAST EIGHT WEEKS WITH DEBILITATING STRIKE ACTION ON WAGE ISSUES, INVOLVING SOME PUBLIC SERVICE UNIONS PRIMARILY ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, FINANCE MINISTRIES, AS WELL AS CUSTOMS SERVICE. ALTHOUGH CONFRONTATION HAS

...4

PAGE FOUR YVGR0149 P R O T E C T E D

BEEN OF GENERALLY LOW INTENSITY SO FAR, SOME ACTIONS TAKEN BY UNIONS (SUCH AS ONE-DAY OCCUPATION OF NATIONAL PALACE, BLOCKAGE OF EXITS AT NATIONAL AIRPORT, DEMONSTRATIONS TYING UP TRAFFIC ON MAIN COMMERCIAL DISTRICT OF GUATEMALA CITY) HAVE INCREASED CLIMATE OF TENSION AND ONCE AGAIN OPENED UP GOVT TO ACCUSATIONS OF BEING SOFT ON LAW AND ORDER. ECONOMIC CABINET (COMPOSED OF MINS LABOUR, FINANCE AND THE ECONOMY) RECENTLY MANAGED TO NEGOTIATE AGREEMENT WITH MORE ACCOMMODATING SECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE, BUT IT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN REJECTED BY MOST OF PUBLIC SERVANTS CONCERNED. GIVEN LEVEL OF DEMANDS BY LABOUR MOVEMENT AND EQUALLY FIRM POSITION BY GOVT THAT IT HAS NO/NO FUNDS TO SATISFY THOSE DEMANDS, SHORT OF PRINTING MONEY, SITUATION DOES NOT APPEAR AMENABLE TO SHORT TERM SOLUTION, AND INDEED MAY TURN EXPLOSIVE IF STRIKE ACTION EXTENDS TO REST OF GOVT APPARATUS AND FURTHER STILL TO PRIVATE SECTOR.

6. GOVT PROBLEMS IN DEALING WITH CIVIL SECURITY MATTERS WERE BROUGHT SHARPLY INTO FOCUS BY INCIDENT TWO WEEKS AGO. ON 8MAR, THERE WAS MAJOR RIOT IN TOWN OF STA LUCIA COTZUMALGUAPA, SOME 120KM SOUTHWEST OF CAPITAL. IRATE TOWN INHABITANTS ALLEGEDLY ATTACKED AND BURNED POLICE STATION AND ASSAULTED POLICE OFFICERS, UNDER BELIEF POLICE WERE INVOLVED IN KIDNAPPING OF CHILDREN TO BE USED FOR ORGAN TRANSPLANTS. TRIGGER OF RIOT WERE ACCUSATIONS (LATER PROVEN TO BE ERRONEOUS) THAT POLICE HAD FREED AMERICAN WOMAN ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN TRAFFIC AFTER PAYMENT OF BRIBE. MOBS BTTLED WITH POLICE RIOT

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PAGE FIVE YVGR0149 P R O T E C T E D

SQUAD FOR MORE THAN THREE HOURS, RESULTING IN SOME 15 POLICE AND 35 CIVILIANS WOUNDED. APPARENT TO TV VIEWERS IN CAPITAL (WHERE EVENING NEWSCASTS SHOWED ONE-HOUR BLOW-BY-BLOW COVERAGE) WAS ABYSMAL TRAINING OF POLICE AND MORE SO IN CONTRAST WITH DISCIPLINE SHOWN BY ARMY TROOPS, CALLED SUBSEQUENTLY TO SUCCESSFULLY QUELL DISTURBANCES.

8. THUS PRESSED TO SHOW FIRMNESS IN HANDLING OF BURGEONING ANARCHY, PRES FINALLY RESPONDED LAST WEEK BY APPOINTING SUCCESSOR TO MIN OF INTERIOR ORTIZ MOSCOSO, WHOSE RESIGNATION HAD BEEN ACCEPTED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH REMOVAL OF ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF (SEE REFTTEL). NEW MINISTER, LAWYER EDUARDO PARINELLO BLANCO, SERVED IN MID 80'S CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WITH DE LEON CARPIO. CONTACTS AT OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE ARCHBISHOP HAVE ADVISED PARINELLO HAS ...6

PAGE SIX YVGR0149 P R O T E C T E D

REPUTATION AS HARD LINER.

9. FEARS OF POSSIBLE RETREAT BY GOVT ON ISSUE OF TAKING POLICE FORCE OUT OF MILITARY CONTROL HAVE BEEN HEIGHTENED BY SUBSEQUENT APPOINTMENT THIS WEEK BY PARINELL OF COL MARIO MERIDA, HERETOFORE HEAD OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, AS VICE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, CONCURRENT WITH REMOVAL OF CIFUENTES AS CHIEF OF POLICE. MERIDA HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS MEMBER OF HARD-LINE FACTIO OF ARMY. REMOVAL FROM HIS PREVIOUS JOB WOULD ENABLE NOW ASCENDANT QUOTE INSTITUTIONALIST UNQUOTE FACTION WITHIN ARMED FORCES TO CONTROL VERY SENSITIVE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE PORTFOLIO WHILE AT SAME TIME ENSURING STRONG ARMED FORCES INFLUENCE ON ANY MATTER TOUCHING CIVILIAN SECURITY. CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES INFORMATION SERVICE ALSO ADDED IN PRESS CONFERENCE THAT FURTHER APPOINTMENTS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL TO CIVILIANS SECURITY ORGANS MIGHT NOT BE DISCOUNTED, IF THE PRESIDENT WERE SO INCLINED.

10. COMMENT: AFTER FAILED AUTO-COUP OF LAST MAY AND ELECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OMBUDSMAN AS PRESIDENT, THERE WERE HIGH EXPECTATIONS THIS WOULD MARK TURNING POINT IN GTMLAS ROAD TO FULLER DEMOCRACY. TEN MONTHS LATER, IT IS NOW APPARENT GOVERNANCE CRISIS WHICH PRECIPITATED THESE EVENTS IN THE FIRST PLACE WAS ONLY SUERFICIALLY RESOLVED. CONSTELLATION AND RELATIVE STRENGTH OF POLITICAL FORCES HAS NOT CHANGED AND NEITHER HAS CLOSED, DISCREDITED POLITICAL SYSTEM. UNDER EXISTING CONDITIONS, MOST THAT CAN BE

...7

PAGE SEVEN YVGR0149 P R O T E C T E D

EXPECTED IS FOR WELL MEANING BUT INCREASINGLY IMPOTENT PRESIDENT TO FINISH HIS CONSTITUTIONALLY MANDATED TERM. EXISTING CONDITIONS, HOWEVER, COULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED BY ADVANCES IN PEACE PROCESS. INDEED, PROCESS OFFERS BEST HANCE TO BREAK THROUGH DOMESTIC IMPASSE, AS DISSAPPEARANCE OF ARMED CONFLICT WOULD REMOVE MAIN PRETEXT FOR MAINTAINING UBIQUITOUS MILITARIZATION OF GUATEMALAN SOCIETY AND, AS HAPPENED IN EL SALVADOR, OPEN NEW CHANNELS FOR POLITICAL PARTICIPATION TO HITHERTO MARGINALIZED GROUPS.

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HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN GUATEMALA

Issue:

In spite of political change within Guatemala and international pressure from without, the number of human rights violations has not decreased.

Background:

Guatemala is a highly stratified society with an unequal distribution of wealth. This disparity is reflected in ethnic divisions, most of the poor being indigenous people while the rich are almost exclusively "Ladinos." For decades, the imbalance has contributed towards high levels of political and criminal violence within Guatemalan society.

Last year's most significant event was the attempted coup by President Serrano in May, after which the Congress selected Mr. Ramiro de León Carpio, former human rights ombudsman, to succeed the ousted President. As Ombudsman, Mr. Carpio's efforts to improve respect for human rights in his country and to encourage the fledgling civil society had earned him respect at home and abroad.

However, the optimism that followed his accession to power was short-lived. The President seemed to prefer concentrating on constitutional issues rather than on human rights problems and civil strife. In fact, the country has experienced a resurgence of human rights violations, after a short-lived relative calm. According to numerous reports, a qualitative change has occurred in the violations --- intimidation and threats are now preponderant, as opposed to outright killings and disappearances. Many of these have been perpetrated by civil defence patrols (the PACs) which, according to the President, will be dissolved only when the armed conflict ends. Consequently, the President has lost many of his initial supporters, especially within the popular movements.

Nevertheless, there has been an overall improvement in the level of political dialogue despite continual threats and acts of intimidation against the leaders and members of various organizations in civil society. The press is free and spares no one, not even the President. The Army itself appears divided between a hard-line faction and a growing faction hesitant to continue previous practices. Finally, the indigenous people seem to be organizing themselves with increasing effectiveness. With some 70 per cent of the population, they represent a major political force that no one can afford to ignore in the long term.

Guatemalan Position:

Guatemalan officials have usually resisted attempts by the international community to force the government to improve its human rights record. The authorities have tended either to consider human rights as a purely domestic issue, or they recognize that the situation is appalling, but a necessary evil of the civil war and related to the intransigence of the URNG.

Since de León's coming to the presidency, the official position of the government has changed to indicate more concern for human rights. However, this change of rhetoric has not been followed by a decrease of human rights violations. According to the January 1994 situation report of the Oficina de Derechos Humanos del Arzobispado, there were 46 (forty-six) cases of presumed extrajudicial executions. This number would indicate an increase since December. The main features of the current situation are:

- There has been little improvement in the human rights situation under the present government.
- There appears to be a will among the police and the officials of the government to help victims and their families.
- In spite of this apparent good will, there have been few concrete results (i.e. few cases are solved and few perpetrators are caught and tried).

The Patrullas de Autodefensa Civil (PACs) and military activity are the main sources of political violence in the country. President de León has stated that participation in the PACs should be on a voluntary basis and that they should be disbanded once a peace agreement is reached. This further underscores the desirability of achieving a lasting peace.

Canadian Position:

The issue of respect for human rights is central to Canada's relationship with Guatemala. We continue to follow the situation closely and to express our concerns openly to the Guatemalan authorities and their representatives in the Guatemalan Embassy in Canada.

Canada also continues to support various non-governmental human rights organizations by way of its own NGOs. Our financial support for the **Procuraduría de los Derechos Humanos**, which was previously led by Mr. Carpio, has assured us of good relations with the President. We realize that Mr. Carpio will have to face many major challenges, and that his government will need our full support as it seeks to improve the human rights situation. With this in mind,

Canada is implementing a \$1.5 million project to assist democratic development in Guatemala.

Canada will also continue to participate in the repatriation of refugees from Mexico to ensure full compliance with the 1992 accords and to maintain its support for Canadian NGOs involved in the process.

At the 50th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights, Canada consulted with other like-minded countries to determine whether we should attempt to have Guatemala examined under Item 12 of the Commission's agenda. As a general policy, we believe that all country situations should be dealt with under Item 12. However, our view was that the key objective was addressing the substantive question of how to improve respect for human rights. In the light of this, Guatemala was eventually mentioned under Item 19 (advisory services) with a strong resolution.

Points to Register:

- Respect for human rights remains Canada's primary concern in its relations with Guatemala. As the President is aware, this concern is shared by both the Canadian Government and Canadian NGOs.
- Despite the hopes we had when Mr. de León Carpio became president last May, the human rights situation remains a persistent and serious problem.
- We note that when the President was Human Rights Ombudsman, he declared that the PACs were unconstitutional. Since taking office as President, he has indicated that they should not be disbanded until there is a sustainable peace agreement. We do not believe that this stance responds to the clear concerns expressed by many Guatemalans about the role of the PACs.
- We recognize that the President faces enormous challenges in a number of other areas. The fight against corruption in the political sphere, the need to end a long-standing civil war and the need to deal with the reality of well-entrenched elites constitute a daunting agenda with many linkages among issues.
- Canada will continue to do what it can to support the President's efforts in the areas of human rights and democratic development. We are implementing a project to establish a \$1.5 million Democratic Development Fund to help Guatemala establish a stable and lasting democracy.

1994/58. Assistance to Guatemala in the field of human rights

The Commission on Human Rights,

Guided by the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Reiterating that the Governments of all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, even under exceptional circumstances,

Recalling its resolution 1993/88 of 10 March 1993,

Taking into account Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities resolution 1993/16 of 20 August 1993,

Having considered the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture (E/CN.4/1994/31), the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (E/CN.4/1994/26) and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (E/CN.4/1994/7),

Having considered also the report of the independent expert Mrs. Monica Pinto (E/CN.4/1994/10), and studied the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

Welcoming the mobilization of the people of Guatemala, which has made possible the restoration of the constitutional order and the rule of law following the events of 25 May 1993, and which has led to the appointment as constitutional President of the Republic of Mr. Ramiro de León Carpio, whose work as Human Rights Procurator has been widely recognized by Guatemalan society,

Taking into account the fact that the continuation of the internal armed conflict is a factor affecting the human rights situation in Guatemala,

Taking note of the legal and institutional reforms introduced by the Government with a view to combating impunity and guaranteeing the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms for everyone in Guatemala,

Concerned by the fact that there continue to be human rights violations attributed to members of the armed forces and security forces, and to the so-called voluntary civil self-defence committees,

Concerned also by the fact that situations of impunity continue to exist and that in cases of human rights violations there has been little progress in the investigations and/or judicial proceedings,

Concerned further at the situation of the displaced population in the areas affected by the internal armed conflict, especially in the so-called communities in resistance,

Regretting the serious human rights violations and marginalization that have been suffered by the indigenous populations in Guatemala,

Considering that the economic and social situation continues to have serious consequences, particularly for the indigenous populations and for the most vulnerable sectors of Guatemalan society, such as women and children,

Taking note with satisfaction of the process of repatriation of refugees that was initiated at the beginning of 1993,

Taking note also of the Framework Agreement for the resumption of the peace negotiations between the Government of Guatemala and Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca, signed in Mexico City on 10 January 1994,

Expressing the hope that the will shown by the Government and by Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca will lead to a prompt settlement of the internal armed conflict and will contribute to the establishment of firm and lasting peace, through the conclusion of the negotiations in the near future, including the signing of the human rights agreement, with international verification within the time-limits and on the terms agreed on by the parties, an agreement whose realization will contribute to full respect for the human rights of the whole of the Guatemalan people,

Recognizing the importance of the role that will be played by the representative of the Secretary-General as mediator in these negotiations, and of the participation of the Group of Friendly Countries composed of Colombia, Mexico, Norway, Spain, United States of America and Venezuela, and of civil society, on the terms established in the Framework Agreement,

Considering that it is necessary for the international community to continue to keep the human rights situation in Guatemala under review and to provide advisory services in the field of human rights, with the aim of promoting full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and supporting the efforts of the Government of Guatemala to that end,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report submitted by the independent expert;

2. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of Guatemala for the facilities and cooperation afforded to the independent expert;

3. Recognizes the efforts made by President Ramiro de León Carpio and urges him to continue to adopt the necessary urgent measures to consolidate the democratic institutions and to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms;

4. Regrets that the undertaking by the Government of Guatemala to guarantee full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms has not yet assumed practical form through a more significant improvement, since serious violations of human rights continue to occur, particularly threats and intimidation and crimes against the lives and physical integrity of individuals;

5. Urges both parties to respect the applicable rules of international humanitarian law in the internal armed conflict and to refrain from any activities that may endanger the rights of the great majority of Guatemalans, who are not involved in this conflict;

6. Exhorts the Government of Guatemala to adopt the necessary legal and political measures to guarantee the independence of the Judiciary and respect for its decisions, to intensify investigations aimed at identifying and bringing to justice all those responsible for violations of human rights, to provide compensation for the victims of such violations, to ensure that the judicial system can operate with due protection being afforded to judges, investigators, witnesses and relatives of victims, and to facilitate the activities of organizations, both official and non-governmental, concerned with the promotion and protection of human rights;

7. Again exhorts the Government of Guatemala to continue to apply the independent expert's recommendations, such as the abolition of the system of voluntary civil self-defence committees, starting in those areas in which there is no armed conflict and in accordance with the criteria established in the peace negotiations, and also exhorts it to promote the approval by Congress of the new law regulating the performance of military service and eliminating arbitrary recruitment practices;

8. Again appeals to the Government of Guatemala to intensify its efforts to ensure that all its authorities and the armed forces and security forces fully respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Guatemalan people, and encourages it to include in the curricula and training programmes for personnel of the armed forces and security forces the

constitutional provisions and the international commitments undertaken by the Government of Guatemala in the field of human rights;

9. Again exhorts the Government of Guatemala to expedite and develop legal and institutional reforms to put an end to the violence and impunity, paying particular attention to the implementation of the legal standards guaranteeing the rights and freedoms of the indigenous peoples and the most vulnerable sectors of the population, including street children;

10. Expresses its conviction that the pre-eminence of civilian authority in the national decision-making process is an indispensable condition for the consolidation of the rule of law and the full realization of human rights, since it enables all sectors of Guatemalan society to support and respect civilian authority;

11. Recognizes the positive work done in defence of human rights by the Human Rights Procurator and exhorts the Government to give him support and to guarantee the conditions for the strengthening of his activities, inter alia, through the adoption of legislative measures to enable him to participate in proceedings relating to human rights violations;

12. Encourages the Government of Guatemala to provide the requisite facilities and adopt the necessary measures to ensure that the Presidential Commission on Human Rights (COPREDEH) is the focal point for the coordination of the Government's efforts to comply with its international obligations in the field of human rights;

13. Exhorts the Government of Guatemala to promote concrete activities that will enable the population to attain better living standards, giving priority to the economic and social development programmes, and to strengthen policies and programmes concerning Guatemala's indigenous population, taking into account their proposals and aspirations, together with the independent expert's recommendations on the subject;

14. Encourages continuation of the refugee repatriation process, appeals to the competent authorities to ensure that this process continues with full consideration for the well-being and dignity of all affected persons, providing the necessary facilities for their prompt resettlement in their places of origin, and urges the parties concerned to comply strictly with the agreements reached on the subject since October 1992;

page 8

15. Urges the Government of Guatemala to assist the civilian population displaced by the internal armed conflict and to help them to form their communities;

16. Also urges the Government of Guatemala to consider the earliest possible ratification of the international human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party, in particular the International Labour Organisation's Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries;

17. Takes note with satisfaction of the Framework Agreement for the resumption of the peace negotiations between the Government of Guatemala and Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca, signed on 10 January 1994, and pays tribute to the work of the representative of the Secretary-General as mediator and the efforts of the Group of Friendly Countries to advance the peace process;

18. Expresses the hope that the negotiations under way in Mexico City between the Government of Guatemala and Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca will lead to the signing of a firm and lasting peace agreement in 1994;

19. Urges both parties, as part of this process, to reach substantive agreements on all items on the agenda, and to conclude and implement without delay the human rights agreement, with the corresponding machinery for international verification;

20. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Government of Guatemala and non-governmental organizations with advisory services in the field of human rights;

21. Also requests the Secretary-General to extend the mandate of the independent expert so that she may continue to examine the situation of human rights in Guatemala, provide assistance to the Government in the field of human rights, and submit to the Commission at its fifty-first session a report assessing the measures taken by the Government in accordance with the recommendations made to it;

22. Decides to consider the question at its fifty-first session under the agenda item entitled "Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories" or the item entitled "Advisory services in the field of human rights", in the light of the adoption

E/CN.4/1994/L.11/Add.6
page 9

and application of specific and significant measures by the Government, the effectiveness of which will be assessed in the report of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Guatemala.

56th meeting

4 March 1994

[Adopted without a vote.]

THE PEACE PROCESS IN GUATEMALA

Issue:

Guatemala is the home of the longest civil conflict in Central America and a continuing deep source of concern because of serious human rights violations.

Background:

The initial peace proposal unveiled by the Guatemalan Government on October 5, 1993 appeared to represent a step backwards when compared to ex-President Serrano's last proposal. It was seen as an effort to minimize the role of the URNG rebel forces (National Revolutionary Unity of Guatemala) in the internal political process. The proposal no longer recognized the URNG as a representative of disadvantaged Guatemalans, but rather as an insurgent group which could speak for no one but itself. As expected, the URNG officially rejected the proposal. Canada and other countries were clearly concerned by the impasse.

In January, the Government and the URNG reached agreement in Mexico on a framework for resuming peace negotiations in the second half of February. The following are the major elements of the agreement:

- The UN Secretary-General has nominated Jean Arnault, former UN observer during the previous round, to act as the Moderator.
- Both parties have agreed to submit all accords reached to international (i.e. UN) verification.
- The agenda of the next negotiating session will be human rights issues and the schedule ("calendarization") of the negotiating process.
- The framework agreement, for the first time, gives formal input to the Guatemalan civil sectors. An assembly open to all legitimate, representative and legal non-governmental sectors of Guatemala will be created.
- The assembly's voice will however not be binding, which makes the URNG the major protagonist.
- A group of "Friends of the Peace Process" has been formally created. Its members are: Colombia, Spain, USA, Mexico, Norway, and Venezuela.

The Guatemalan government and the URNG met for 5 days in Mexico City in early March, but they failed to agree on a Human Rights accord, mainly because disagreement on the creation of a "Truth Commission." Nonetheless, UN moderator Jean Arnault expressed optimism that an accord would be signed during the next session scheduled for end of March.

Canadian Position:

Canada has publicly welcomed the framework agreement, and hopes that the parties can now move forward steadily to reach a peace agreement. We have had some concern that in dealing with a broad range of problems in Guatemala, including corruption and constitutional reform, the President was losing sight of the central importance of the peace process.

Points to Register:

(NOTE: Given the timing of the peace talks, these points will need to be adjusted to take into account information on the progress of the negotiations at the end of March.)

- Canada was pleased at the framework agreement reached in January between the Government and the URNG. We believe that the parties to the talks now have a rare window of opportunity to move ahead to a full peace agreement.
- We urge the parties to enter the negotiations in good faith.
- We hope that a peace agreement will allow the Government to concentrate on improving the human rights situation.

CENTRAL AMERICA

CANADIAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

During the armed conflicts of the 1980s in Central America, Canada's development assistance program was driven by the political instability of the region and the search for peace. In the past five years, the consolidation of peace and democracy has set the stage for the countries of the region to strengthen civil democracy, get back on the path of economic development, and pursue regional integration.

STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES

The current year, bilateral program budget of \$34.7 M covers programs in Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala. The Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) in Panama and Mexico is also part of the financial envelope. Other Canadian development assistance channels spend approximately \$10M annually in the region. CIDA resources are being adjusted to build on effective projects and combine sectors more effectively where a regional perspective is possible. We are working in four areas:

Democratic Development: focussed in Guatemala and El Salvador the programs rely heavily on Canadian and local NGOs. We capitalize heavily on Canada's credibility, reputation and capacity in the area.

Natural resources and environment: following the 1992 Rio initiative, debt conversion agreements have been signed with Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua. A regional natural resources program is in planning, building on Canadian capacity and experience in the region in forestry, water, and agriculture.

Economic modernization: major planned CIDA programs will support Canadian and Central American institutions promoting regional integration and modernization of the productive sector (Costa Rica) through the Canadian private sector.

Regional Energy: A regional program complementary to the regions energy investment program, building on a decade of Canadian experience in Honduras and Nicaragua.

KEY PROGRAMMING ISSUES

Concentrating resources in key strategic areas;

Supporting Central American regional integration and accession to NAFTA through economic modernization programs;

Internal political instability and poverty remains of critical concern in Nicaragua and Guatemala.

GUATEMALA

CANADIAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- a) to support activities promoting political democracy and human rights;
- b) to support and strengthen local community organizations through economically productive activities.

PRINCIPAL CIDA ACTIVITIES:

The bilateral program consists of two activities:

- the \$8.8 million program in Support to Local Development Initiatives (PADEL) managed by SOCODEVI, supports microprojects with local communities; and
- the newly approved Democratic Development Fund (\$1.5 million) to be managed by CECI (Centre canadien d'étude de coopération internationales).

The Canada Fund (\$200,000) also supports micro projects complementary to the bilateral program, many in support of human rights.

CIDA Partnership Branch disburses about \$2 million annually in Guatemala since 1989, mainly for refugee support. Multilateral Branch also provides significant support to refugees in Mexico via the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (\$2 million 1991-93 and a further \$0.75 million for 1994-95); the International Red Cross (\$250,000) and the World Food Program. Interpares receives International Humanitarian Assistance through CIDA (\$250,000) for Guatemalan displaced persons.

BACKGROUND

Since the mid-1980s, in support of the peace process in Central America and Canadian foreign policy and aid policy priorities, CIDA has emphasized human rights and democratic development. In 1987, in response to concern over continuing human rights abuses, Ministers decided that delivery of Canada's development assistance program in Guatemala would be through nongovernmental organizations. Since that time the CIDA program has been delivered exclusively through canadian non-governmental organizations.

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- 2 -

Following a failed coup attempt in May 1993, Ramiro de Leon Carpio, previously the highly respected Human Rights Ombudsman, was elected by the Constitutional Court and Congress as President of Guatemala. World attention focussed on democratic initiatives put forth by De Leon Carpio, yet the political situation today remains tenuous. Canada responded to this democratic opening by approving a Democratic Development Fund to support emerging democratic institutions.

CANADIAN PRESENCE IN GUATEMALA

The resident representative for SOCODEVI in Guatemala is Germain LaFleur, Manager of the Program in Local Development Initiatives (PADEL).

NGOs which support projects in Guatemala include the Jesuit Centre for Social Faith and Justice, Christian Children's Fund of Canada, Plenty Canada, the Salvation Army, the Steelworkers Humanity Fund, le Carrefour de Solidarite Internationale, and Cause Canada.

BILATERAL PROJECTS

1. The PADEL (Local Development Initiatives) Program, managed by SOCODEVI since 1989, strengthens local community organizations through economically productive activities. The program supports the poorest, most marginalized rural peoples, most of them indigenous Mayans. The average size of micro-projects is \$60,000. The Government of Guatemala is not involved in project approvals nor in the transfer of funds. This program has recently been extended to 1996.

A project of special note under the PADEL program is Casa Alianza, a project supporting the rights of street children in Guatemala city. A public campaign was recently launched in Canada demanding funding for a third phase of the project. SOCODEVI has approved the project with the proviso that a plan for self-financing be developed.

2. In February 1994, CIDA received Ministerial approval for a two year Democratic Development Fund (\$1.5 million). CIDA responded promptly to the Government of Guatemala request for support to democratization in that country. This fund, soon to be operational, will support activities promoting political democracy, including civil and political rights, electoral processes, public input into the policy agenda, and more equitable distribution of resources. The fund will be managed by CECI at arms length from the government.

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- 3 -

These decisions to expand the Guatemala program are in direct response to a Government of Guatemala request to Canada to consider providing this type of assistance after the new president assumed office.

A further bilateral initiative is the potential debt conversion initiative which to date has not proceeded because of continuing concerns with human rights abuses by security forces. Although modest (\$2.2 million), this would be an important symbolic instrument because of Guatemala's serious environmental degradation.

CHALLENGES FOR THE CIDA PROGRAM

The political situation in Guatemala is extremely complex, and includes deeply entrenched factors such as class and ethnicity. Through its careful management of the Democratic Development Fund, CIDA will identify emerging opportunities for democratic opening and national consensus, and be positioned to better plan future long-range programming in Guatemala.

CANADA/GUATEMALA BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS

Overview:

Guatemala, with the largest population in Central America and the second largest GDP, offers excellent opportunities for the Canadian business community. In 1993, our imports increased by three per cent for a total of \$43 million. During the same period our exports increased almost 100 per cent to reach \$45 million (\$23 million in 1992), bringing our bilateral trading relationship more into balance. Coffee beans accounted for half of our imports, fruits and vegetables for another thirty-five percent, and textile products for most of the rest. Our exports were comprised mostly of components and equipment for electrical transmission lines (forty-five percent) and newsprint and other paper products (twenty-five percent).

Issue:

Our main trade issue with Guatemala is the FEGUA debt owed to Canada; EDC has faced on-going difficulties in obtaining payment on a loan granted to the Guatemalan State Railway (FEGUA) in 1981. The major stumbling-block to repayment was the refusal of the government of Guatemala to recognize the loans as being officially guaranteed. Having agreed a second deadline of March 31, 1994 set by the Paris Club of creditors for the signature of a debt-rescheduling agreement, the Guatemalan government has yet to obtain the necessary approval of the National Congress.

Points to register:

- We are pleased that your authorities have come to an understanding with the Paris Club on the FEGUA loan. I understand the agreement must be endorsed by the Guatemalan Congress, and I urge you to proceed with this endorsement as soon as possible in the interest of resolving this important issue.
- We are pleased to see that your Congress has adopted new laws that provide a hospitable climate for business which should help to generate more trade between our two countries.
- Canada has considerable experience in various industrial sectors, namely telecommunications, hydro-electricity, and the environmental, mining and petroleum sectors. The Canadian private sector is willing to work closely with its Guatemalan counterpart to explore business opportunities.
- Kent Lines, a Canadian shipping company wholly-owned by the Irving Group, has started a regular service between the port of Santo Tomas de Castilla and the port of St-John; this will enhance trade between both our countries.

CENTRAL AMERICAN INTEGRATION AND NAFTA

Issue:

Over the past thirty years, Central American governments have made a number of efforts to integrate their economies and promote free trade, with relatively modest success. At the same time, there is concern over the possible impact of NAFTA on the region.

Background:

The CACM and the Guatemala Protocol

- In 1960 Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua formed the Central American Common Market (CACM), agreeing to liberalize their trade in goods, capital and labour. Only Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras have made substantial progress in integrating their economies, having implemented a common external tariff (CET) on most goods.
- The 1993 Guatemala Protocol (which included Panama) again called for tariff reduction, a CET and the free movement of labour and capital. Before the Protocol can be ratified and implemented, major issues such as macroeconomic policy harmonization will have to be addressed.
- This "voluntary" agreement has no timetable. Costa Rica and Panama may be reluctant to integrate their labour markets with their less affluent neighbours, and Costa Rica remains especially wary of political integration. As NAFTA accession can only be considered a long-term issue, Costa Rica is attempting to secure access to at least one NAFTA market in the interim by negotiating a free trade agreement with Mexico.

Other Trade Arrangements in the Region

- The G-3 (Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela) signed a framework agreement last year with Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, aimed at eliminating mutual tariffs within 5 to 10 years. Colombia and Venezuela are negotiating a free trade agreement (primarily tariff reduction) with Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Proposed Study on Trade Integration

- Last year, terms of reference were prepared by Chris Thomas and Associates of Vancouver, under contract to the Department of Foreign Affairs, for a study to develop technical guidelines for the modernization of Central American trade law regimes. The proposed study would assess the various trade and economic regimes in Central America and determine which steps would be needed to bring them into compliance with international standards.

- Our Ambassadors in San Jose and Guatemala City have provided the Central American governments with copies of the proposal. It will be up to the Central American governments to accept or modify the terms and seek the necessary funding through an international financial institution such as the World Bank or the Inter-American Development Bank.

Central America and the NAFTA

- The Central American countries feel threatened by the possibility of trade and investment diversion to Mexico. They now enjoy duty-free access to the valuable U.S. market for many of their exports via the U.S. Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), a one-way free-trade deal; they have asked the U.S. Administration to modify the CBI to give them "NAFTA-parity" with Mexico. Specifically, goods which are now excluded from the CBI would be allowed to enter the U.S. duty-free. Indications are that the U.S. policy response will focus only on one or two key products (i.e., apparel assembly); the issue of reciprocal concessions from the CBI countries is still being addressed.

Points to Register:

- We congratulate the countries of Central America for their demonstrated interest in further liberalizing their trade and economic regimes, and look forward to seeing a continuation of these market-oriented reform efforts.
- Regarding the proposed study, "The Development of Technical Guidelines for the Modernization of Central American Trade Law Regimes", we are happy to have provided the terms of reference for this study, and encourage the Central American governments to seek the necessary funding through one of the international financial institutions.

Responsive Only:

- Canada has an indisputable commitment to strengthening global trade ties. both NAFTA and the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round are steps in that direction. Unilateral preference agreements are now a thing of the past.
- NAFTA Article 2204 permits the accession of new partners. However, neither the criteria to determine which countries may accede to NAFTA, nor details of the accession process, have been decided.
- Possible criteria to decide which countries may accede include: the importance as a trading partner to NAFTA partners, openness of the economy, GATT-consistency of the trade regime, environmental and labour regimes and geographic location.

Hemispheric Security

Issue

Despite some positive political developments, including the emergence of the Organization of American States (OAS) as the premier venue for dealing with regional security concerns, there are still significant challenges to be overcome in enhancing hemispheric security. The Latin-American civil-military relationship continues to be a source of instability: to a large extent it is where the concerns for fostering peace and security and promoting democracy converge. Other obstacles to regional security include: border tensions; guerilla insurgencies; weapons proliferation; and the fight against narco-trafficking.

Background

The Organization of American States (OAS) is the premier venue for dealing with regional affairs and inter-American issues. Only in recent years, however, has the OAS turned its focus to regional security issues in a systematic manner. The 1992 and 1993 General Assemblies adopted a series of ground-breaking resolutions which firmly placed hemispheric security questions on the OAS agenda and work programme. Canada made substantive contributions and provided much of the political leadership necessary to bring these issues forward to the General Assembly.

At the 1992 Nassau General Assembly, the OAS established a Special Committee on Hemispheric Security to focus on broader cooperative security and non-proliferation issues. At the 1993 General Assembly the Special Committee was tasked with intensifying its work, including through the establishment of working groups on selected themes, including non-proliferation, conventional arms transfers and conflict prevention.

Following preparatory discussions last year in Washington, the Special Committee held a meeting in March in Buenos Aires devoted to confidence building measures (CBMs) in the hemisphere. Canada provided \$30,000 towards the cost and served as rapporteur for the meeting. As the first gathering of its type in the region, the meeting generated several practical suggestions for the Special Committee to consider. By bringing together diplomats and military officials, the meeting also reinforced the desirability of engaging the military within the political dialogue and consultation process.

One issue that the OAS has yet to resolve is the future status of the Inter-American Defence Board (IADB). Created in 1942 following the attack on Pearl Harbour, the IADB was tasked with planning for the defence of the hemisphere. Its relations with the OAS are tenuous; the IADB receives approximately \$2 million

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- 2 -

from the OAS, but has no formal linkage to it. The 1993 General Assembly in Managua adopted a resolution calling for a full review of the IADB and its relation to the OAS.

Canadian Position

Two of Canada's primary objectives in the Americas are to consolidate the recent democratic advances achieved by most countries of the region and to enhance hemispheric security. Joining the OAS in 1990 enabled Canada to pursue these objectives with renewed credibility. Within the organization we have worked to strengthen its role in hemispheric security issues and to consolidate the Special Committee as the principle forum for discussion and cooperation on these issues.

Having played a key role in setting up the Special Committee, we are now encouraging it to make practical contributions to security in the region, in areas such as conflict prevention, including through the development of mechanisms for enhancing transparency in military activities. The March meeting on CBMs was an important first step for the Special Committee towards fulfilling its mandate and providing further impetus for carrying out its broad programme of work.

Canada is also promoting greater cooperation between the OAS and the UN on issues relating to regional peace and security. These efforts are in keeping with the suggestions made by the UN Secretary General in his report An Agenda for Peace.

Canada is not a member of the IADB and we question whether in its present form it is relevant to regional and global political realities. Still operating under its original mandate, and staffed almost exclusively by senior military personnel, the Board is a throw back to an earlier era. Recently the Board has made some modest efforts to contribute to regional security, such as its involvement in hemispheric de-mining activities. Last year Canada contributed five medical kits to the IADB for use in its de-mining operations in Nicaragua.

Canada has criticized the \$2 million in resources allocated by the OAS to the IADB, particularly as the Board has no formal linkage to the OAS. We welcome the upcoming review and believe that the IADB needs: clear political and civilian control, strict guidelines for accountability, a revised and well-defined mandate flowing from the political process in the hemisphere and the allocation of a modest budget appropriate to its newly-defined tasks.

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- 3 -

El Salvadoran Position

Still hostage to the repercussions of its twelve year civil war, El Salvador has not been a proactive participant in the evolving security discussions within the OAS. When pressed to do so the country has made a contribution. Together with other Central American countries, El Salvador presented a text on the Central American peace process at the Washington preparatory meeting and the country participated actively in the March meeting on CBMs.

As a member of the IADB, El Salvador will likely resist any movement towards vesting the Board with either a more relevant or expanded mandate.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- CANADA STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE RENEWED ATTENTION BEING PAID BY THE OAS TO HEMISPHERIC SECURITY ISSUES AS REFLECTED BY THE CREATION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HEMISPHERIC SECURITY.
- WE HAVE ENCOURAGED THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO FOCUS ITS EFFORTS IN DIRECTIONS WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE CONCRETELY TO SECURITY IN THE REGION.
- THE MARCH MEETING ON REGIONAL CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES WAS AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP IN FULFILLING THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S MANDATE.
- WE WERE PLEASED THAT EL SALVADOR ATTENDED AND WAS ABLE TO SHARE ITS UNIQUE EXPERIENCES WITH THIS IMPORTANT MEETING.
- FROM THE IDEAS GENERATED AT THE MEETING WE HOPE THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE WILL DEVELOP SOME PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER ACTION, WHICH WE CAN CONSIDER AT THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
- WE ALSO HOPE THE MOMENTUM AND POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE GENERATED BY THIS MEETING WILL CARRY FORWARD TO DISCUSSIONS ON OTHER SECURITY ISSUES BEFORE THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE.
- CANADA WELCOMES THE DECISION BY THE OAS TO REVIEW THE ROLE AND OPERATION OF THE IADB.
- WE BELIEVE THE IADB NEEDS A REVISED AND WELL-DEFINED MANDATE, STRICT GUIDELINES FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND THE ALLOCATION OF A MODEST BUDGET APPROPRIATE TO ITS NEWLY-DEFINED TASKS.

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR

President: Alfredo Félix Cristiani Burkard

Vice-President: José Francisco Merino López

Minister of the Presidency: Dr Oscar Alfredo Santamaría

Minister of Foreign Affairs: Miguel Angel Salaverría

Minister of Planning and Coordination
of Economic and Social Development: Mrs Mirna Liévano de Márques

Minister of the Interior: Colonel Juan Antonio Martínez Varela

Minister of Justice: Dr René Hernández Valiente

Minister of Finance: Edwin Sagrera

Minister of the Economy: Luis Enrique Cordova

Minister of Education: Mrs Cecilia Gallardo de Cano

Minister of Defence: Colonel Humberto Corado Figueroa

Minister of Labour
and Social Security: Dr Juan Sifontes

Minister of Public Health
and Social Welfare: Dr Lisandro Vásquez Sosa

Minister of Agriculture
and Livestock: Antonio Cabrales Cáeres, P. Eng.

Minister of Public Works: José Raúl Castaneda Villacorta, P.Eng.

Secretary of Information: Mauricio Sandóval

President of the Legislative Assembly: José Roberto Angulo

President of the Supreme Court of Justice: Mauricio Gutiérrez Castro