

commitment. We should be even more assertive in support of democratic institutions and fundamental human values.

4.6 Provide Further Technical Expertise on Good Governance

- a) **Strengthening of Democracy:** The provision of election monitoring teams, and experts on government process and democracy, are all practical and highly useful approaches. Canada has done excellent work in monitoring elections; as important is the process between elections, including the strengthening of democratic institutions and the appropriate role between the military and the state. The Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development and Elections Canada could provide expertise in these areas, perhaps with modest funding from CIDA from a regional "democracy fund".
- b) **Good Governance:** In addition, we could offer advice on the process of good government including such areas as privatization, regulatory reform, tax collection and reduced military spending. For example, the Competition Bureau in the Department of Industry can provide valuable insight and practical experience on the importance and operation of competition (anti-trust) legislation for the effective operation of markets. Finance and Revenue Canada can do the same for taxation policy and administration. Regional seminars with senior officials from the region (perhaps in cooperation with the OAS) could be effective, as could presentations to appropriate Latin American congressional committees. The expense would be minor.
- c) **Demilitarization and the Role of the Military:** One of the biggest hurdles to the development of democracy in the region has been the penchant of the military in some countries to intervene whenever there is a perception of paralysis in government. One innovative area in which we have abundant expertise that could be put to good use would be the training in Canada of a number of Latin American military officers (at the levels of major through full colonel) in the art of peacekeeping. This proposal represents an attractive way of instilling the virtues of the proper relationship between the state and its military arm. It would also potentially enlarge the pool of available and competent peacekeepers for United Nations duty. In addition, Canada should continue to seek to revamp the Inter-American Defence Board and College so that these institutions address more directly the role of the military in a democratic society, including providing training and expertise on issues such as disaster assistance, peacekeeping and environmental protection. Finally, Canada should continue to promote transparency in arms transfers throughout the region by encouraging Latin American and Caribbean nations to make timely, accurate