

- d. the "disappearance" of four persons in February;
- e. the arrest of Martin Dossou Gbenouga, editor of *La Tribune des Démocrates*, on 26 April and his imprisonment for five years, for "insulting the guardians of public order".

Most of the 250,000 Togolese who took refuge in Bénin and Ghana in early 1993 remain in those countries, because of continuing uncertainty about economic prospects and the government's longstanding unfavourable record on human rights. A source of political and economic instability in both countries, they complicate Togo's relations with the two neighbours.

President Eyadéma received a Ghanaian Ambassador in Lomé and announced (on 9 December) the reopening of the border with Ghana, effective 10 December, in the interest of good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation. In the name of "national reconciliation", he announced the waiving of judicial proceedings against the presumed perpetrators of the attacks of 25 March 1993 and 5 January 1994 and the presentation in the National Assembly of a bill promulgating a general amnesty.

CANADIAN POSITION

Apart from the annual \$250,000 Local Initiatives Fund, Canada suspended its aid to Togo in the wake of the political crisis of 1992 and it has not been resumed. In 1993, Canada gave \$3 million to assist the refugees in Bénin and Ghana.

The Department of Foreign Affairs received reports and representations about human rights abuses in Togo from individuals and organizations such as the Canadian-Togolese Community (Hull), International Pen (Toronto), Amnesty International (London) and the Union of Forces for Change (Paris).

Canada has welcomed the legislative elections, despite their imperfections, as an important first step in Togo's democratization process. Canada has stressed, both in private diplomatic exchanges and in public forums such as the annual meetings of the UN Commission on Human Rights and the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, that Togo must attach much higher priority to eliminating the abuse of human rights. Because of the long history of such abuses under President Eyadéma, the implementation of the measures he has just announced will bear close scrutiny to determine whether they constitute a meaningful (and, if so, welcome) departure.