

death penalty for traitors and terrorist leaders, has been approved. Government officials have consistently repeated that its implementation is unlikely and that the measure should be seen as a deterrent against terrorist leaders.

As promised at the Nassau OAS General Assembly in May 1992, President Fujimori has kept his word regarding his plan for the return of democratic institutions. Municipal elections were held on January 1993, including one in Ayacucho, which was the first one in ten years. As well, there was a country-wide referendum on October 31, 1993. Even though the referendum was not won by a large margin (52%), President Fujimori has kept his promise by giving the electorate the opportunity to accept or refuse the proposed Constitution. Due to its near rejection, the Opposition parties have been bolstered and are clamouring for immediate amendments to the newly approved Magna Carta. Both the government and the President have recognized that the document will have to be improved.

President Fujimori has admitted that corruption is a problem in the administration, including in the judiciary. He has taken action to redress the situation: judges, magistrates, prosecutors have been dismissed, and military officers have been retired. Very few cases, however, have gone to court.

Finally, although economic statistics are improving, benefits have not yet become apparent to the 50% of the population who live below the poverty line. The government has so far been unable to deliver on its promises of improving living conditions.

CANADIAN POSITION

The Canadian government continues to make frequent inquiries to various Peruvian government ministries about specific cases where human rights appear to have been violated. We have also made direct contacts with purported victims (especially journalists) to determine the status of their complaints and to enquire about their personal safety.

The Canadian government considers that serious efforts are being made by Peru to improve its human rights situation. Concerns will continue to be expressed at the official level on every possible occasion, as illustrated during the Secretary of State, Christine Stewart's visit early in January 1994.