

or Government level, and that a Unit for Democratic Development be established within the Secretariat.

- 3) Canada has participated actively in the Program of Action for Strengthening the OAS, designed to make it a more effective institution, responsive to the needs of its members and the issues of our times.
- 4) The Secretary General has named Canadian Senator Gerald Ottenheimer to the high-level, independent Consultative Group on the Inter-American System, which was established to examine the future of hemispheric relations and the role of the inter-American system.

2. **Objective:**

To promote democratic development and respect for human rights in the hemisphere.

Activities:

- 1) Canada's proposal for a Unit for Democratic Development, to help promote democratic institutions and processes in the hemisphere, was adopted unanimously by the General Assembly at Asuncion. On October 15, 1990, the Secretary General established the Unit within the General Secretariat. Canada has been active in discussions at the Permanent Council and in committee to refine and strengthen the Unit's Work Plan. The result of this initiative will be very practical -support for the democratic process will be institutionalized, rather than being carried out on an ad hoc basis.
- 2) Canada participated directly in OAS democratic support missions for elections in Nicaragua and Haiti. At the Secretary General's request, Canada provided twelve experts for the OAS team observing the registration process in Haiti in October 1990, and ten experts for the OAS observation team for the election in December. In addition, the Secretary General appointed a Canadian official as his personal representative for the OAS initiative in Haiti. Canada provided three experts for the OAS observation team for the election in Nicaragua in February 1990, in addition to resources provided bilaterally and through the UN.