

at the emergency meeting of the OAS on the crisis in Peru, McDougall called for Peru to take a series of specific steps to restore democracy which would be monitored by the OAS. She then commented:

Canada joined this organization because we wanted to become a full partner with the new democratic Latin America. We have been encouraged that the OAS has taken several steps to strengthen democracy in individual countries and within the region.

We are preoccupied that democracy has been reversed -- first in Haiti and now in Peru -- and we worry about rumblings in one or two other democratic countries in our hemisphere. I tell you frankly that the Canadian people will not be interested in partnerships with dictators, nor with an organization that does not stand up in support of democracy.⁴

At the 22nd Annual General Assembly of the Organization of American States, on 19 May 1992, McDougall identified a number of priority issues for the OAS. In particular, she stressed the importance of protecting human rights, promoting peace and security including economic development, protecting the environment. She returned, however, to the issue of democracy and the work of the Unit for the Protection of Democracy:

The unit was conceived to help countries in their own efforts to consolidate democratic gains. It would not rely on any one form of democracy, but would reinforce those that already existed. It would work with governments to strengthen the roots, the institutions and the attitudes that allow democracies to thrive. Periodic elections alone do not constitute democracy, nor does the monitoring of elections alone ensure the promotion of democracy.

The unit could, over time, provide security to all democratically elected governments and would threaten no one except, perhaps, would-be dictators.

Canada believes that the unit is needed -- and the events of the past ten months have surely borne this out. We have been disappointed at the lack of progress in its implementation.

...the unit should have its own executive director and a reasonable budget to execute its program. We had hoped that changing priorities -- and they certainly should be changing -- would have allowed funds to be reallocated from other, less urgent activities.

The Inter-American Defence Board comes to mind. There seems to be agreement that the Board's role and mandate should be reviewed in light of changing security concerns in the post-Cold War era. Surely when the main threat to democracy is from the military, the OAS should be shifting funds from a military activity to a democratic one.

⁴ Secretary of State for External Affairs. "Notes for a Statement by the Hon. Barbara McDougall, Secretary of State for External Affairs, at Organization of American States Headquarters on the Crisis in Peru," *Statement*, 92/15, 13 April 1992: 2.