

originality. The example encourages us to move a step further in the direction proposed by the Special Joint Committee and the response given by the Government.

Part III - What is being done internationally

33. In our contacts with international multilateral organizations and with foundations and institutions of other democratic developed countries, we were interested in examining whether their programs and activities could provide useful models after which a Canadian approach might be patterned. We were interested, as well, in possible future interaction between these institutions and a Canadian institution. Consultations with, and information gathering in respect of, the majority were carried out through the good offices of Canadian missions abroad. In view of the short timeframe of our own exercise, personal contact with such organizations was limited to those with headquarters in New York or Washington.

34. Following our review of such existing organizations, we have concluded that there is no international or national organization on which a Canadian institution should be modelled. The intention to develop a Canadian institution is welcomed by the multilateral, national and private organizations we consulted. Considerable interest was expressed in developing linkages with a future Canadian institution. United Nations, Commonwealth and Organization of American States secretariat interlocutors believe that the establishment of a Canadian institution would provide reinforcement for their activities in such areas.

International Multilateral Organizations

A. The United Nations Organization

35. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP - headquarters in New York) has a program of technical assistance and a Resident Representative in each developing country of the United Nations. In response to specific requests from governments, the UNDP carries out a wide variety of technical assistance activities relating to the development of democratic institutions: for example, projects for the development of trade unions, media, literacy campaigns, improvement of the judiciary, etc. It was suggested by senior UNDP officials that a Canadian institution could serve usefully as a centre of excellence and specialization, and as a focal point for a networking of experience among the national developing country NGO networks. Neither the UNDP nor any existing institution was structured to play such a role.