

approving enabling legislation. After considerable debate in Congress during the week of December 11, the opposition refused to approve the Government's nominee for Ombudsman, forcing the Government to rethink its approach. Free and fair elections were held at the national (April 1995) and municipal (November 1995) levels. In the former, Fujimori won a firm mandate for a second five-year term, and the latter saw the election of independent mayors in most cities. In both instances the will of the people was accurately expressed. The reduction of income disparities and social justice require urgent attention as almost 50% of Peruvians live in poverty. Fujimori has made poverty alleviation a priority for the next five years, assigning 40% of the budget to social programs.

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada's position on human rights is well understood by the Peruvian Government. The Canadian Ambassador and other officers pursue every opportunity to express Canadian concerns when meeting with ministers, officials, and members of the political establishment. Canadians served under OAS auspices as electoral monitors during the April Presidential and Congressional elections. The Embassy facilitated the visit of the Hon. Edward Broadbent to Peru in 1994 and follow-up visits by staff of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development. The Embassy regularly exchanges views on the human rights situation with Canadian and local NGOs including the Inter-Church Coalition on Human Rights in Latin America.

Since fiscal year 1992/93, CIDA has contributed \$123,000 to projects which support human rights and good governance, primarily through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives. Thus far in 1995/96 the following projects have been approved:

- Assistance to "TRANSPARENCIA": Three-month bridge financing to enable this organization to observe elections. TRANSPARENCIA deployed 1,700 volunteers as scrutineers, to observe counting and conduct exit polls (\$32,000).
- "Racism in Peru": Financing research, preparation of study and analysis on racism in Peru (\$4,100).
- Adoptions: Donation of household appliances, laundry equipment for temporary home of Technical Secretariat for Adoptions (\$15,400).
- "Noticias Aliadas": Funding for their publications on human rights (\$5,000).
- Violence against Women: Funding for NGO "Demas" for assistance in legal defence and legal advice to women (\$14,000).

In addition, a large number of projects undertaken by the Canada-Peru Counterpart Fund support women's rights and grass-roots democracy. Consideration is also being given by CIDA (Bilateral) to an initiative to strengthen local government.