

While that landmark event was not, in itself, an agenda item, it did not pass unnoticed. As members of the OAS, we share common values of peace, justice and representative democracy enshrined in the Charter of Bogota.

Today we meet again, shaken by events that threaten a return to darker times, but determined to uphold democratic values in our hemisphere. We must focus on democracy at this meeting because it cannot be taken for granted and because it is essential for the future of the Americas. We have a clear mandate to defend democracy as provided by our charter and reaffirmed by the Commitment of Santiago.

In Haiti, we have an illegitimate government without a leader. In Peru, there is a leader without a legitimate government. Neither situation is acceptable; both must return to democracy.

If the OAS were to settle for anything less or if we were merely to pay lip-service to the Santiago Commitment, we would be condoning and perhaps even encouraging those who threaten or degrade democratic principles.

Canada is determined that the impasse in Haiti not continue indefinitely. The illegitimate regime in Haiti has thwarted every attempt to restore democracy to the Haitian people. Canada will continue to enforce sanctions, as we all agreed last October.

At the same time, we recognize that the Haitian people are suffering great hardship as a result of the constitutional crisis. Canada, therefore, will continue to provide food aid and other humanitarian assistance in accordance with resolutions 1/91 and 2/91.

We have just allocated a further \$5.0 million for this purpose, bringing to \$7.5 million the amount that Canada has allocated to humanitarian assistance since the coup. I would encourage all governments to assist in alleviating the suffering in Haiti.

In Peru, two OAS missions met with people representing all democratic elements of the political spectrum. I was pleased that Canada was able to participate. And, indeed, it is a mark of the success of our efforts that President Fujimori felt it necessary to appear before us.

I am disappointed at his continued lack of flexibility, but am encouraged that he has met our demand for an elected constituent assembly.

We must continue to press the Government of Peru for a full and early return to democracy, and we must not shrink from further action if necessary.