

formally ratifying its signature to the Charter and within the hour, Canada's Permanent Representative, Ambassador Jean-Paul Hubert, presented his credentials to the Chairman of the Permanent Council.

By the year's end, the Permanent Mission was able to report a busy and successful year which advanced Canada's reputation in the eyes of long-standing OAS members beyond that of initial sympathy or curiosity for a newcomer. Achievements such as Canada's proposal to establish a Unit for Democratic Development in the Secretariat, accepted unanimously by the General Assembly at Asuncion in June 1990 and established by executive order of the Secretary General in October 1990, were an obvious highlight. But there were other accomplishments as Canada developed working partnerships with colleagues on the Permanent Council and its committees, in OAS specialized organizations (several of which we joined for the first time), and in OAS operations in the field such as electoral support for elections in Nicaragua and Haiti.

These activities were guided by and contributed to Canada's five objectives for our first year of membership outlined above in Section III. The objectives provide a measure for assessing the effectiveness of our performance "in the arena". Specific activities undertaken to achieve the objectives demonstrate that we have indeed played an active, independent and effective role, as recommended by the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade in its February 1990 report on Canada in the OAS.

Our progress can be summarized, therefore, as follows:

1. **Objective:**

To participate in the reform and strengthening of the OAS.

Activities:

- 1) At the 20th General Assembly at Asuncion in June 1990, Canada joined with other members in establishing a new quota scale for budgetary contributions, which had been frozen for many years. The new quota structure should help to improve the financial situation of the OAS.
- 2) At the General Assembly at Asuncion, Canada's two proposals for strengthening the OAS as a political forum were accepted unanimously: that member states hold a hemispheric summit at Head of State