

Shortly afterwards, however, the OAS commitment to democracy was put to a stern test by the coup in Haiti on 30 September 1991. The OAS responded to the coup by imposing economic sanctions against Haiti. Subsequently, an OAS mission, followed by the Committee of Foreign Ministers, visited Haiti to emphasize the necessity of a return to democratic government and the reinstatement of President Aristide. In late February, the OAS mediated an accord, signed by Prime Minister designate Rene Theodore and President Aristide, which was designed to reinstate Aristide, albeit in a situation where his position seemed likely to be more titular than executive.

In April 1992, the OAS faced a further crisis of democracy following the suspension of constitutional processes in Peru by President Fujimori. The Permanent Council of the OAS, chaired by Canada, called for an ad hoc meeting of Foreign Ministers, deplored the events that had taken place in Peru, and urged the Peruvian authorities to reinstate democratic institutions immediately. In June 1992, the OAS agreed to place on the agenda of a special foreign ministers meeting, scheduled for November 1992, the proposal to amend the OAS Charter to permit the expulsion of governments that take power through illegal means. The proposal is controversial, however, since OAS members, particularly Mexico, may see it as an infringement on the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of member countries.

On the broader question of regional security, in her 1991 address to the General Assembly McDougall also proposed that the OAS adopt a resolution condemning the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms and establish a working group to study regional proliferation. In response, the OAS discussed problems relating to arms proliferation and the final communique of the Assembly recognized the need to limit regional arms proliferation.

CURRENT CANADIAN POSITION

In regard to the promotion of democracy, in May 1992 the Canadian International Development Agency announced a grant of \$1 million to the OAS Unit for Promotion of Democracy. The grant is intended "to support efforts of member countries to foster democratic institutions."³ One month earlier, however, Secretary of State for External Affairs, Barbara McDougall, delivered a sharp warning to the OAS. Speaking

³ Department of External Affairs. *News Release*. No. 103, 19 May 1992.