

Canada can provide and has provided very practical and positive reinforcement for legal reform through directly assisting in the development of democratic constitutions; training and organizing an independent judiciary without which there can be no guarantee of human rights; and establishing and training people to run agencies that monitor human rights.

The Canadian Bar Association's Central and Eastern European Legal Internship Program will bring 24 lawyers from Poland, Hungary, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and Ukraine to Canada to undertake three-month internships with Canadian legal firms and organizations.

The 1992 program will also feature seminars in Warsaw and Prague on the role of lawyers in democratic and free-market societies, as well as a judicial training component for 10 judges from the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.

In 1990, the Quebec Ministry of Justice contributed to a series of advisory and training initiatives with the Hungarian Department of Justice. Hungarian officials studied Quebec's civil code, land registration and notarial systems; legal experts from Quebec provided expertise and advice on legislative drafting and reform to Hungary's criminal law.

Promoting Democracy

Other sectors of society can also be brought into harmony with systemic protection of human rights. This winter, in Montebello, we hosted a seminar on democracy for leaders of the armed forces in Eastern Europe.

A project sponsored by the Canadian Human Rights Foundation of Montreal will bring 21 participants from Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to Canada for a five-week training program on human rights.

These and other similar programs are designed to ingrain basic concepts of human rights into the cultures of these newly emerging nations.

Canada is well aware of both the opportunities and the potential risks of the new-found freedoms in Central and Eastern Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union.

We are committed to preventing conflict by promoting democracy, principally through the United Nations, but also through other regional and independent organizations and bodies.

For example, Canada provided an expert on the international team sponsored by the CSCE that observed the election last December in Ukraine.