

in the region, the promotion of representative democracy, and the promotion of economic, social and cultural development through cooperative action, reinforce at a fundamental level Canadian foreign policy interests.

Canadian objectives have also been conditioned by an appreciation of the organization's problems, some of which may simply reflect middle age. Despite reforms undertaken to date, there is still significant room for improvement in financial management and the administration of technical cooperation. At a broader level, the organization needs to be attuned with today's hemispheric challenges and set its priorities accordingly. While there is political will for reform on the part of hemispheric leaders, it needs to be translated into tangible change at OAS headquarters. Continuing efforts to solve these problems, and the overall positive tone of hemispheric relations generally, suggest that conditions are more favourable now than ever before for Canada to contribute positively. The OAS - despite its shortcomings - is still a vital instrument for hemispheric cooperation.

In light of these considerations, Canada has focussed on five specific objectives during its first year at the OAS:

1. To participate in the reform and strengthening of the OAS;
2. To promote democratic development and respect for human rights in the hemisphere;
3. To strengthen OAS specialized organizations and institutions dealing with emerging non-traditional security concerns such as the environment and drugs;
4. To contribute to economic growth and stability in the hemisphere; and to support developmental activities initiated by the OAS; and,
5. To stimulate informed dialogue and understanding on hemispheric issues touching on Canadian interests.

IV. FIRST YEAR OF OAS MEMBERSHIP: SOME SOLID ACHIEVEMENTS

The new Permanent Mission of Canada to the OAS lost no time in establishing Canada as an active and interested participant in nearly all activities of the OAS. At noon on January 8, 1990 Canada officially became a member of the OAS by