

de Liberacion Nacional (ELN) and the *Fuerza Armada Revolucionaria de Colombia* (FARC), and on November 17, 1994, published a document setting out the conditions that it felt were necessary for the resumption of talks. The government has shown flexibility in particular by refraining from asking the guerillas to lay down their arms before negotiating. The conciliation document has been viewed favourably by Colombian society and by the guerillas themselves.

CANADIAN POSITION

The Canadian government has regularly reminded the Colombian government that its efforts to reduce violence and improve human rights protection must follow democratic principles, and their success will be measured by the decline in the number of reported cases of violations. Canada's concerns were raised during a visit to Colombia by the Hon. Christine Stewart, Secretary of State for Latin America, and by Senator Alan McEachen. These concerns will continue to be raised at the appropriate level as often as necessary.

A number of demarches have been made by Canada with the various departments and institutions of Colombia with respect to specific cases. Our representatives in Bogota also have close contact with the NGOs concerned with human rights advocacy, and with activists and victims, in order to determine the nature of their complaints and monitor their personal safety. They have frequently been in touch with the President's Advisor on the defence, protection and promotion of human rights, and have taken part in numerous symposiums organized by the NGOs on this matter, both in Bogota and in the provinces.

For its part, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), whose objectives are to reduce poverty and strengthen civil society, has accorded financial support to projects directly related to protecting individual rights and improving the judicial system in Colombia.