

Board. This review must take account of the profoundly changed political situation in our hemisphere. It should recognize that our military establishments have an important role to play within our security discussions and in the ongoing consolidation of democracy in our hemisphere. Indeed, the strengthening of democracy, the rule of law and the institutions which underpin our democratic systems should provide the essential foundation for this critical review.

I spoke of this being a time of change for Canada. It is also a momentous time for the OAS with our new Secretary-General set to take up his duties in the coming months and a major hemispheric summit of our nations' leaders at year end.

The Secretary-General-elect has articulated a vision of the OAS which touches upon many of the priorities I have mentioned. We must ensure that the OAS addresses these issues in the most effective and efficient way possible. President Gaviria has also spoken a great deal about the need for organizational reform, a view Canada shares. Canada will be looking to our new leader to continue the crucial process of OAS revitalization which has begun over the past few years.

In particular, we will be looking for the allocation of appropriate resource levels — human and financial — to activities which go to the heart of the Organization's *raison d'être*, in particular those of the human rights institutions and the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy. This will necessarily imply reductions in less important areas of the OAS's current work, since the current conditions of fiscal restraint in all of our countries — Canada among them — do not allow us the luxury of major budget increases. The Organization will have some difficult but vital choices to make.

Canada will also be looking for on-going reform and streamlining of existing bodies and a focussing on comparative advantage. The area of technical co-operation at the OAS is an example of this. At last year's General Assembly, the membership passed the Protocol of Managua, which allowed for the merging of the two technical co-operation councils. It bears mentioning, at this point, that this merger cannot take place and the new Council cannot begin operations until two-thirds of the member countries have ratified the Protocol. Thus far, only a very few countries, led by Canada in October 1993, have done so. We would therefore urge the remaining countries to ratify the Protocol at their earliest opportunity, so that concrete action can be taken.

The grant funds at the disposal of the OAS for technical co-operation are relatively minor compared to those available from bilateral donors and multilateral institutions. Therefore, it is essential that we avoid dispersing these limited resources and duplicating the efforts of other organizations. The OAS must