

Tajikistan is still in the throes of civil war, with disastrous consequences for democratic and economic development. Thousands of refugees have fled to neighbouring Uzbekistan and Afghanistan.

Hard-line ex-Communists have used clan affiliation and superior organization to push out a coalition of Islamists and democrats who had taken power in April 1992 on a wave of mass demonstrations.

The ex-Communists have promised to re-establish constitutional rule. In the meantime, they have undertaken a campaign of summary executions of political opponents, particularly in the capital, Dushanbe.

In Turkmenistan, the ex-communists have retained power and continue to dominate public life. President Niyazov, was the sole candidate in the 1991 elections. The new constitution adopted last June provides for a strong presidency.

Opposition activists, especially Islamists, have been jailed or forced into exile. The government intends to pursue gradual economic reform, with the emphasis on a state-controlled resource sector.

Uzbekistan has amended its constitution to guarantee civil and political liberties, as well as Soviet-style social and economic rights. President Karimov has, however, been selective in his interpretation of these rights.

The leading secular opposition movement, Birlik, has been unable to gain legal recognition. Its leaders have been beaten up and, most recently, kidnapped from a human rights conference in neighbouring Kyrgyzstan.

Islamist groups are banned, though the official Muslim clergy enjoys generous state support. The Bukhara Jews practice their religion freely. Economic reform has been slow.

### CANADIAN POSITION

In establishing diplomatic relations with all of the newly-independent states of the former Soviet Union, the Prime Minister sought from their leaders explicit commitments to UN and CSCE principles on human rights and the protection of minorities.

Such assurances were received from all of the countries concerned. Canada has continued to reiterate its views on specific issues at the highest levels.

Canada's programme of technical assistance is funding democratic development projects in Russia, Ukraine and Georgia, including institution-strengthening for national parliaments, training for a new generation of impartial public servants, the publication of a