

We await with impatience the restoration of democratic freedoms in Chile, a cradle of democracy in this hemisphere, where senseless violence by both the opponents and supporters of the present regime has caused yet another setback: Canada condemns this violence in the strongest terms.

But sometimes in North America, we overlook the enduring quality of democracy in South America.

This year of 1986 marks the centenary of the constitution of Colombia, and it is timely to remember the words of General Francisco de Paula Santander, a brother in arms of Simon Bolivar and later President of Colombia.

"If arms have given us independence," he said, "it is the rule of law that assures our liberty."

Sometimes in North America we overlook the history of Latin American democracy, which is continent wide and truly inspired.

Sometimes too we overlook that the founding fathers of your republics were children of the enlightenment.

They have bequeathed to the hemisphere and the world the principles of non-intervention in the sovereign affairs of other nations, and of adherence to the principles of international law.

In Canada, we share in that legacy.

And we will continue to promote that community of interest that has seen us work with many of your nations, enhancing the role of middle powers in the affairs of all nations.

This has been so since the founding of the League of Nations after one war, and of the United Nations after another.