

- assistance in establishing an English/French language training centre which will also focus on teaching the principles of democratic government and human rights.

In addition, senior Canadian Ministers have visited Eastern Europe, Canadian MPs have monitored elections in Romania, Elections Canada has provided advice to Czechoslovakia for its elections, expertise has been provided to Poland in the area of privatization, and my Department has hosted a session of investment seminars for Poland across Canada.

It is time for the international effort to expand to include the other new democracies emerging from the revolution of 1989. In the weeks ahead, the 24 countries which co-ordinated the program for Hungary and Poland will meet to broaden that effort to include these other countries. Canada will support this initiative and we will announce our own expanded national program in the near term. Canada will also participate fully in the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to be established shortly. That Bank will provide much-needed capital to fund private sector initiatives and infrastructure throughout Eastern Europe. It will also introduce those countries to the culture, concepts and language of business.

We have established a Task Force on Central and Eastern Europe, which will elaborate the details of our expanded assistance program, administer it, and co-ordinate private and public sector activities. This Task Force has begun an intensive series of consultations with Canadian groups and individuals, encouraging them to participate financially and in practical, concrete ways - and asking them for their advice on initiatives we might undertake.

The Task Force will explore a three-pronged program of co-operation. The first would be a program of support for Canadian business, which could include trade-promotion, management training, support for trade councils and feasibility studies. The second focus would be on economic development, which could consist of technical assistance and management training in many areas, including agriculture, law, taxation, privatization, environment, finance and telecommunication.

The third element would be a political co-operation program designed to ensure that democracy is secured while the countries of Central and Eastern Europe experience their turbulent transformation. Our priorities would be to provide expertise in the areas of elections, law reform, a free media, the development of a professional public service, human rights, and the democratic political process. We would encourage people-to-people contacts.

Assistance to Eastern Europe is not a question of charity. It is a matter of hard common sense and self-interest. Assistance to Eastern Europe is also not a matter of dumping large amounts of cash into the hands of these new governments. What is more important and more effective is the provision of expertise, the training of managers and decision-makers, the teaching of the tools of democracy, and the encouragement of private sector investment in specific projects and enterprises.