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REPORT FROM THE ROUNDTABLE ON  
GOVERNANCE, CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE AMERICAS

January 28, 2000  
Victoria, British Columbia

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1. Introduction

As the world underwent changes in the late 1980's, Canada joined the OAS in 1990, attended the Miami Summit in 1994, and became engaged by more liberalized economic policies and commitments to democracy within the OAS system. The second Summit (Santiago-1998) witnessed commitments to a Plan of Action which included conventions on corruption, small arms, gender equality and indigenous issues. Recent new opportunities such as the Pan American Games, Summit of Heads of State meetings, the Business Forum and an upcoming model assembly (Albi) for youth are reflections of additional progress. There remain, however, real problems - wanting economic growth, serious inequalities, democracies remain fragile. There is a need to strengthen regimes by reducing inequalities and building democratic processes and institutions, introducing a more integrated economic approach within the hemisphere and bringing the living human dimension to the forefront. These were some of the challenges facing the Victoria summit. Canadian policy-makers to pursue in the next months.

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