

believes these forces comprise and are directed by the Mexican police and military).

D) The increasing militarization of Mexico, especially in the South, is contributing to human rights abuses and escalating political problems there. Hence, rather than containing conflict, it is contributing to it.

E) The Chiapas situation, rather than winding down, is quickly transforming into a powderkeg. The massacre at Acteal in December 1997 brought to light the escalating problem of paramilitary violence, as well as their role in fueling what will probably be an even more intense cycle of mayhem in the near future.

F) The recent trend of expulsion of foreigners - especially those associated with NGOs in Chiapas - has heightened political tension, and has reduced the element of surveillance which provides for the protection of human rights.

G) While many NGOs have formed in the area of human rights in Mexico, they have tended to focus on Chiapas, while other regions of Mexico remain neglected.

H) The Organization of American States represents an important venue for Human Rights vigilance in Mexico, and Ms. Acosta's