

3. **Relaxation of conventional security concerns in the post-Cold War period, as the USA redefines its strategic and political interests in the hemisphere and elsewhere.** Attention has shifted to newly emerging non-traditional security concerns such as the environment, drugs, terrorism, and the destabilizing impact of debt on the democratic process.

These developments presented Canada with both opportunities and challenges in areas central to Canadian foreign policy interests. The Long Term Strategy provided a framework for a range of selected measures to promote these interests. In addition to seeking full membership in the OAS, Canada would launch high level political dialogue with Latin American and Caribbean governments, establish satellite offices in Santo Domingo and Quito, and expand trade promotion efforts, all with a view to strengthening linkages with these countries.

Canada's decision to join the OAS was not, therefore, taken as an end in itself. Rather it was an integral part of a new approach to relations with the countries in this hemisphere, taken at a time when conditions in the region suggested that a serious, sustained commitment was needed. These conditions simply were not present when earlier consideration was given to membership in the OAS.

III. CANADA'S OBJECTIVES AS A MEMBER OF THE OAS

As Canadians observe the increasing globalization of issues and changing concepts of security, we are reminded once again that acting alone, Canada can contribute only marginally to resolving the full scope of issues confronting us in the Americas; on the other hand, working with our partners in the OAS, Canada and Canadians can make a difference. This approach is consistent with our historical preference for multilateral and regional institutions as instruments for promoting Canadian interests and values.

Canadian objectives at the OAS are shaped by our determination to be an active, independent and effective participant in the hemisphere's foremost political forum. Major initiatives taken by Canada, such as our proposal to establish a Unit for Democratic Development in the OAS Secretariat, have been developed with this in mind, while ensuring they are in line with the broad purposes of the OAS set out in its Charter. Of the latter, those calling for the strengthening of peace and security