

government or some other form of power-sharing as advocated by the FDR and the leader of the NDP, he could well be overthrown and the prospects for the institution of true democracy spoiled.

President Duarte's reluctance to be drawn into negotiations with the left are also understandable in the light of information contained in documents captured in April. The FDR has not denied the authenticity of these documents, which spell out the objectives of the left in negotiations as follows: first, to draw out the conflict, which is going badly for the revolutionary forces; second, to drive a wedge between the Christian Democratic Party of President Duarte and the armed forces; third, to enhance the image of the left as a peacemaker; and fourth, to seek to expose the Christian Democratic Party as a facade for a military-controlled government.

However, Canada refuses to dismiss out of hand the feasibility of holding fair elections, as the leader of the NDP does. Elections were possible in Zimbabwe in similarly difficult circumstances. President Duarte is on public record as saying that the Organization of American States (OAS) would be welcome to monitor them. His words as quoted in the March 6 edition of the New York Times are:

"We are going to request from the Organization of American States not only to send us a protocol mission, but to send us contingents from all of the Americas to come and inspect, and to really make these free elections."

As I said recently before the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, if requested, and if we believed we could be of assistance, we would certainly be prepared to consider participating in such a mission.

In our view, Duarte has earned the right to be given a chance to bring about a political solution in the most democratic of manners -- through free elections. A founder of the Christian Democratic Party, he has fought all of his life for democracy. Together with the present leader of the FDR, Guillermo Ungo, he waged and won the 1972 election campaign in his country. This victory was blocked by the military and Duarte was jailed, beaten and tortured. Exiled to Venezuela, he was one of the leaders of the opposition movement whose efforts eventually led to the overthrow of President Romero in October, 1979. He returned to his native land only 13 days after the revolution and was appointed to government in March, 1980, becoming President in December, assuming the position he had rightfully won in 1972.