

V. BEYOND YEAR ONE AT THE OAS: FUTURE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Canada has joined the OAS at a time when unprecedented change and transformation in the international community have focussed attention on regional institutions and their capacity to adapt to new challenges. Organizations like the OAS, the OAU, ASEAN and the European associations are having to re-examine their security and economic mandates with the apparent retreat of Cold War security concerns and the emergence of new concerns like the environment, drug traffic and debt. At the OAS, the process of reform and modernization is helping to build a stronger organization, both financially and also with regard to its political and security mandate. Looking ahead, Canada can expect these trends to continue, reflecting positive developments in the region and the constructive tone of hemispheric relations. Having begun as an active and well-intentioned partner with special interests in democratic development and OAS strengthening, Canada will continue these efforts in 1991 and concentrate on the following objectives:

1. Consolidate the work of the Unit for Democratic Development as an active and effective instrument;
2. Proceed with the ratification of inter-American human rights instruments, as provincial consultations are completed;
3. Continue our participation in the reform of the OAS, including contributions to the OAS strengthening exercise;
4. Increase the number of Canadians in both elected and staff positions of OAS specialized organizations and the General Secretariat;
5. Continue work within OAS specialized organizations dealing with non-traditional security concerns such as the environment and drugs; and support OAS developmental activities;
6. Contribute to initiatives aimed at lowering trade and investment barriers, both within and outside of the OAS, to ensure Canadian interests are served.