

independent judgments (External Affairs communiqué, October 30).

The observers released their report on November 14. While a full count of ballots had not been made at the time of the report's release, the delegation stated that they had observed the electoral process in various parts of Guatemala. Despite the fact that the final outcome had not been revealed, the Canadian team expressed no doubts as to the "fairness and openness of the actual process." They also felt that preparations for the vote had been "efficient" and "well understood" by Guatemalans. The Guatemalan Supreme Election Tribunal received the delegation's praise for the "trust and confidence" it had inspired in both voters and political parties. While the proportion of women voters was severely limited (primarily because of high illiteracy and "cultural tradition"), the team concluded that the elections had offered Guatemalans a "fair, honest and open opportunity to express their political preference" (External Affairs communiqué, November 14).

Unofficially, the delegation leader, Mr. Fairweather, had earlier expressed doubts as to the wisdom of sending delegation teams (*Globe and Mail*, November 5). Mr. Fairweather decried the "voyeurism" of election observers and spoke of the unfavorable context within which the Guatemalan elections were held. He questioned the likelihood of the results having reflected the true popular will, or even whether the elections had offered voters a "realistic choice." Principal among the problems had been transportation difficulties, the high illiteracy and cultural traditions which had made it difficult for a major portion of Guatemalans (primarily native Indians) to "express their wishes" with regard to the future of the country. Mr. Fairweather also questioned whether the candidates had "represented the aspirations" of the indigenous peoples.

## Mexico

### Reconstruction Assistance

While Canada had contributed emergency relief funds immediately following news of the September 19 earthquake in Mexico, External Relations Minister Monique Vézina announced further federal plans to contribute toward stated Mexican priorities of long-term reconstruction. Speaking in the Commons November 7, the Minister stated that, acting in close cooperation with the Mexican government, Canada had sent a planning mission to Mexico in order to assess requirements. The Canadian delegation, having met with Mexican officials and NGO representatives, and having consulted with other donor countries, multilateral institutions and private interests, focused on the areas of education, housing and health. Nearly four million dollars in additional assistance was to be allocated from the budget of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Ms. Vézina added that the funds were to be divided among projects for urban low-cost housing reconstruction, a rural health and pure water project in a severely stricken area, a smaller allocation for the Canadian embassy's own projects program, and another portion

for the rebuilding and equipping of the National College for Technical and Professional Training.

## South Africa

### Apartheid

With regard to the possible imposition of full Canadian sanctions against South Africa, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark told the Commons October 1 that Canada would continue to measure the degree to which South Africa moved to dismantle the racist policy of apartheid (see "International Canada" for August and September 1985). The Minister praised efforts by the Canadian private sector (acknowledging recent moves by the South African business community as well) in seeking ways to bring Canada's "repugnance and revulsion" to bear upon the South African regime. Interviewed October 13, Mr. Clark stated that Canada would pursue "steady progress" at the mid-October Commonwealth conference held in Nassau. However, he added that "pressure" could most effectively be maintained through the willing participation of all Commonwealth members in any joint action. (Great Britain, as in fact proved the case, had been regarded by many advocates of stronger action as the major stumbling block to unity.) It remained the Canadian position that the "threat" of sanctions was of more use than the "fact" of sanctions (CBC Radio [External Affairs transcript], October 13).

Commonwealth Secretary General Shridath Ramphal urged tougher economic sanctions in order to "compel" South Africa to end apartheid and was joined in his call by Commonwealth labor leaders (*The Citizen*, October 15, 16). However, despite much behind-the-scenes activity by several Commonwealth leaders, including Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Britain's intransigence forced the acceptance of a "compromise" measure. Meeting with unanimity, the final product included the establishment of a joint committee to review the situation in six months' time, a ban on government-to-government loans, the discontinuance of government financing of trade missions, curbs on the importation of krugerrands, a call for South Africa to renounce apartheid and release its political prisoners, and a demand for the lifting of both the state of emergency and the ban on the outlawed African National Congress. While many of the measures were similar to those already instituted by several Commonwealth nations (such as Canada), the "compromise" agreement did avert a possible split between conservatives and those advocating more extreme measures. As well, it was announced that the Commonwealth would establish a group of "eminent persons" to encourage the evolution of a "process of dialogue across color lines" (*The Citizen*, October 21, *Globe and Mail*, October 22).

Speaking in the Commons October 25, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark stated that Canada had played a "pivotal" role in securing unanimity on the Commonwealth communiqué. He added that the "consensus achieved" was "remarkable" given the division of opinion among members prior to the conference. Making a statement to