

our modest initial expectations - a too rare occurrence. Moreover, Canada's work in the OAS has been well received by the media, the public and other interested parties. The OAS is a useful meeting point and forum for discussion and, to a somewhat greater degree than in the past, for action (it was helpful during the Haitian crisis). Cuba's eventual denouement will provide another test for the OAS as a multilateral instrument in the Americas. It offers an excellent venue to promote our policies on good governance, human rights and democracy (as was done with the creation of the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy, a Canadian proposal backed by \$1 million in funding over two years). As a further demonstration of the depth of our commitment to the Organization, we could offer to host the annual General Assembly of the OAS in the near future, perhaps as early as 1996 (Canada will host the G-7 Summit in 1995).

Canada is well placed, and has already begun, to exercise leadership with respect to internal reform of the OAS. Other suggestions aimed at strengthening the useful but still modest trend to greater relevance include:

- i) The federal government should ensure that Canadian initiatives launched in the OAS, including further budgetary reform and the revamping of OAS technical assistance programmes, are actively reinforced by assigning sufficient human resources to our Embassies in regional capitals to ensure that local governments forward supportive instructions to their OAS delegations.
- ii) The OAS scholarship program is a good one and Canada makes a significant financial contribution. In order to strengthen Canadian contacts with the region, we should ensure that more Latin Americans funded by this program come to Canadian universities and that more Canadian students undertake studies in and on Latin America.
- iii) Canada should continue its policy towards the Inter-American Defence Board of reducing its budget until its role and mandate have changed (promoting more clearly an appropriate relationship between the military and the State). In the meantime, Canada should seek temporary observer status at the Board. A defence attaché from the Embassy in Washington could be tasked to do so.
- iv) We should continue the good work aimed at the reform of the Special Committee for Consultation and Negotiation (CECON). For example, there is a lack of adequate institutional capacity to guide regional integration efforts in the Southern Cone, the Andean region, Central America and the Caribbean. CECON could serve as a clearing-house to collect, systematize and distribute information on trade and financial matters. It could eventually act as something