

A second dilemma concerns the evaluation of violations of human rights. The Government suspended its aid programs to Guatemala on the grounds that violations of human rights there caused such security problems that development aid could not be delivered effectively. It has been resumed on the grounds that this is no longer the case, a judgement disputed by some observers, although Canadian WGO's have continued to work in Guatemala. Unfortunately, there is no independent or impartial standard by which to judge such matters: the UN Commission on Human Rights is inevitably hampered by political differences in coming to agreed conclusions. For this reason, it is to be hoped that the new Institute for the study and promotion of human rights which the Government intends to establish will help Canadians to reach a better understanding of the issues at stake.

At a deeper level, Canadian and US assessments of threats to peace outside of Europe are based on different perceptions of what world order requires. The United States tends to perceive events in terms of the "communist" or the "Soviet Empire" and the "free world," and it expects its allies to rally to the cause; Canadian governments, on the other hand, are more sensitive to the local and indigenous circumstances of any conflict and look to international law and organization, or to regional mechanisms, as the appropriate vehicles for response. Canada does not regard the conflicts in Central America as manifestations of the Cold War but rather as the product of injustice, poverty and corrup-

tion. By and large, these assumptions are shared by US allies, although they are tempered by doubts about Soviet policies, doubts which are based as much on the rhetoric, as on the practice, of successive Soviet leaders. The advent of Mikhail Gorbachev is helping to calm such doubts; and while Canada and