

In the other areas of immediate relevance to this paper - democracy and human rights - the *Plan of Action* contained extensive provisions. These included: strengthening democracy; promoting and protecting human rights; invigorating society/community participation; promoting cultural values; combating corruption; combating the problem of illegal drugs and related crimes; eliminating the threat of terrorism; and, building mutual confidence. Under the general category of eradicating poverty and discrimination, the *Plan* called for: universal access to education; equitable access to basic health services; strengthening the role of women in society; encouraging small business and micro-enterprises; the establishment of the White Helmets - a corps of volunteers for development work and disaster relief.

Clearly, both the *Declaration of Principles* and the *Plan of Action* took a very broad approach to economic development, human rights and democratization. The broad goals articulated in those concluding documents from the Miami Summit are consistent with Canada's cultural values and with the goals of Canadian foreign policy. To what extent those goals will be attained in coming decades remains to be determined, however. Some of those goals have proven elusive over the better part of the past century, and although the signs of progress are encouraging, progress on such targets as the elimination of poverty has been glacial.

PART I

HEMISPHERIC INTEGRATION

The following section outlines recent developments in Western Hemisphere trade and in the regional integration efforts that form such an important part of the hemispheric economic and political agenda in the past decade. The intent here is not to be prescriptive but rather to trace the comparatively recent historical patterns and delineate the current situation. Since this paper as a whole addresses issues of democratization, human rights and economic integration, it should be