

assigned to look into specific national situations. The Commission this year is charged with reviewing five such cases, and I want to say a brief word about each.

In the case of Guatemala, I personally witnessed the open and democratic election which gave that nation its first civilian government in thirty years. Madame Cerezo and Foreign Minister Quinones outlined eloquently for us the commitment of the new administration to political, social and economic reforms and to the full protection of human rights. These undertakings have been supported by decisive action since January 14th, but a great deal remains to be done before Guatemalans can be confident of their rights, and be free from the political terrorism and violence that has not completely ceased with the transfer of power because not all elements in the country share the commitment of the government. In the view of my delegation, the Commission should support and encourage the new government in its difficult task of rebuilding and strengthening the legislative and judicial structures of democracy, to provide rule by law rather than by bullet. We believe that to this end the Commission should keep Guatemala on its agenda, so as to provide the new government with support and assistance during this difficult transition period. The Commission should also request that a Special Representative continue to monitor and report under these new circumstances.

There are sometimes conflicting reports of the situation of human rights in El Salvador, and the Commission has been most fortunate in having the careful and thoughtful reports of its Special Representative. While there seems to be little doubt that the situation in El Salvador continues to improve, our Representative reports continued political assassinations at a relatively high level, as well as acts of urban terrorism committed by the insurgent opposition. Reports of the bombing of civilians in rural areas continue to be received, although some at least have proved to be without foundation. The situation is such that both El Salvador and the international community can benefit from the efforts of an impartial and objective representative of the Commission. My delegation believes that the Commission should renew the mandate of the Special Representative, and continue to keep the situation under review in order to provide maximum support to the Government of El Salvador in its efforts to provide increasing protection to human rights in that country.