

Promotion of Democracy (UPD) should be used for more than election monitoring, although that is certainly an important aspect of its work. We see several needs that the UPD should be addressing in Guatemala and in those other countries that are anxious for assistance from the OAS:

- 1) seminars, workshops and training opportunities for the judiciary and those responsible for law enforcement;
- 2) education of the military on its role in a democratic society;
- 3) technical assistance on judicial reform;
- 4) financial and technical assistance for human rights organizations;
- 5) education at the local level on the role and function of democracy; and
- 6) more exchanges between democratic institutions within the hemisphere.

We see no reason why the UPD could not be working on these needs. If it had been doing so in Guatemala, we might not be confronted with the situation we face today.

It is not my intention, Mr. Chairman, to dwell on lost opportunities. My point is that we have an obligation to ensure that we are not continually confronted with these situations. I am confident that the OAS can take action that will help prevent such situations from occurring.

We should mandate the UPD to begin to work in Guatemala on the needs I have just identified. I know there are other needs as well. My government also believes that there is a role for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and urge that it be asked to send a mission to Guatemala as soon as possible.

When this organization begins to implement a long-term approach to the promotion of democracy, its real value to the hemisphere will become more evident. The crisis management of coups is not what the Santiago Commitment was all about. I believe it was about building democratic societies. My government expects us here today to start building, and I think that strong support for strengthening democratic institutions in Guatemala is a good place to start.