

personalities, on the subject of "Democracy and Democratization: A Dialogue between Europe and Latin-America".

E. The Organization of African Unity (OAU)

42. In 1986, the OAU's African Charter of Human and People's Rights came into force. In 1987, OAU Heads of State and government will elect a commission charged with promoting human rights in Africa and ensuring that the Charter rights are observed by State parties. In January 1987, the Gambia government, the instigator of the Charter, approved the establishment of an African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights whose objective would be: research into problems affecting human rights and democracy in Africa, the provision of advice to African governments and NGOs, and the promotion in Africa of human rights. The Attorney General of the Gambia has written to us expressing pleasure at the proposed establishment of a Canadian institution, predicting that the Gambian and Canadian institutes would contribute effectively to the strengthening of human rights and democratic practices in Africa, and seeking assistance for the proposed Gambian institution.

F. The World Bank's International Development Agency (IDA)

43. The IDA's focus is on economic development and the issues of poverty and basic human needs. It provides assistance in social areas, including projects of political development and structural change. The view is emerging that effective actions in social areas are the single strongest weapons in favor of anchoring effective equitable societies, and that many such programs effectively enhance economic development. IDA operational approaches increasingly seek the integration of economic, social, cultural, civil and political objectives with greater concern for "people's participation in development" to enhance the success of projects. With the agreement of the governments concerned, the Bank has implemented projects or elements thereof through the increasingly dense networks of NGOs which exist at the grassroots level, and which are particularly well established in Latin America and India. The NGO contribution to development, some US \$4 billion globally, includes US \$1.3 billion provided by governments. IDA is now directing US \$2 billion, one-tenth of its grants, to the community level.

44. Bank officials believe there is a need for an institution such as Canada could provide, to focus attention on fundamental and critical questions relating to the fragility of democracy and human rights in situations of severe economic strain and financial and economic adjustment. They drew attention to the virtual revolution in developing countries towards more open economic systems, a development whose potential for the evolution of democratic systems has not been sufficiently recognized.