

Canadian business. Improving our regional profile was a necessary response to this change.

The emergence of non-traditional issues such as drugs and the environment meant that Canada could no longer afford to be absent from the hemisphere's foremost political forum. We had to be at the table to deal with these issues.

III. WHAT ARE CANADA'S PRIORITIES AT THE OAS?

- OAS renewal
- Democratic development
- Human rights and women's equality
- Hemispheric security and arms control
- Environmental protection
- Narcotics abuse control
- Technical assistance

IV. HOW HAS CANADA MADE A DIFFERENCE ?

OAS Renewal:

Reform of the OAS is a major objective. Canada is encouraging the OAS to address new priorities and drop others. In 1990, Canada joined with other members in drawing up a new quota scale for budgetary contributions. Currently, Canada is the second largest contributor to the OAS preceded only by the U.S.A.. Canada, in cooperation with other OAS members, is working towards the strengthening of the technical assistance programme of the OAS. Concrete proposals for revamping CECON, the special OAS committee for consultation on trade matters were submitted to the Organization in 1992. Canada is pursuing these proposals to give CECON a more constructive role.

Democratic Development:

Canada's resolution to establish a Unit for the Promotion of Democracy within the OAS Secretariat was adopted unanimously by the 1990 OAS General Assembly and in 1992, Canada announced a \$1 million special contribution to the Unit's operations. In addition, Canadian observers took part in OAS observation missions for elections in Nicaragua and Haiti. Confronted by the coup d'état in Haiti, Canada encouraged a vigorous response by the OAS. Canada complied fully with the OAS sanctions against Haiti and keeps insisting on the return of constitutional government to both Haiti and Peru.

Human Rights and Women's Equality:

Canada has pursued the advancement of human rights through a series of international conventions. In October 1990, Canada joined the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) with the aim of further strengthening its role as