

substantive remarks on democratic development. You will have an opportunity to outline Canada's democratic development and peacebuilding priorities for 1998. You may also wish to discuss Canada's peacebuilding initiatives in Guatemala. Please note that IDEA/Dr. Daniel Zovatto is conducting an in-depth study on democratization in Guatemala.

IDEA has done intensive studies on electoral systems in Nepal, Romania and has mediated disputes in Zambia. You may wish to ask the Secretary-General to describe IDEA's work in these countries and his perceptions about sensitive transitions to democracy (ie. Cuba, Nigeria and Burma). Does he see IDEA playing a role in these transitions?

#### POINTS TO REGISTER

- \* IDEA'S IMPRESSIVE WORK ON ELECTORAL SYSTEMS, CONFLICT MEDIATION AND DEMOCRATIC INSTRUMENTS ARE OF GREAT INTEREST TO US. FURTHERMORE, WE SEE IDEA AS A FOCAL POINT FOR ORGANIZING COALITIONS OF THE WILLING AROUND SENSITIVE TRANSITIONS TO DEMOCRACY.
- \* WE SUPPORT IDEA'S WORK ON THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN DEMOCRACY AND PEACEBUILDING. WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE PEACEBUILDING PROCESS DEMANDS THAT WOMEN MUST PARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES, FROM PEACE-ACCORDS TO GRASS-ROOTS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.
- \* IN PROMOTING DEMOCRACY, THE ROLE OF FREE MEDIA HAS BECOME A KEY AREA FOR ASSISTING COUNTRIES TO MAKE A TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY. FREE MEDIA HAS THE POTENTIAL TO SEND CLEAR SIGNALS OF CHANGE, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME, GIVING OPPOSITION PARTIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY A VOICE.

Following the lunch, the IDEA delegation will meet with Minister Marleau, followed by a roundtable with selected representatives of the press. The IDEA delegation returns to Stockholm on Saturday 24 January.