

connections to other countries of origin have strong views and highly-developed lobbying skills, often based on misconceptions of what recognition involves. Among the key questions which the political level will wish to assess are: Would Canadian groups strongly support or strongly oppose an act of recognition? How large or vocal are domestic interest groups? Are they strategically located in key constituencies, and do they have vocal supporters in Parliament or within the governing party? To what extent are their views reflected in domestic media coverage? How would the Canadian public in general react to recognition?

#### **6. Principles relating to self-determination and democracy:**

The widespread acceptance by states in recent years of new principles of state conduct, especially respect for human rights and democratic institutions, has found its way into the political considerations which underpin recognition policy. In the case of unions or federations once united under authoritarian or totalitarian control, and which are dissolving with the spread of democratic institutions, Canada and other countries have developed principles which relate to self-determination, human rights and democracy, drawn from the United Nations and CSCE experiences. In September 1991, USA Secretary of State Baker suggested five principles by which may provide a framework for recognition, based on the process through which states come to independence:

1. The populations concerned must themselves determine their future, peacefully and consistent with democratic values and practices and with the principles of the Helsinki Final Act;
2. Existing internal and international borders should be respected; any change should occur only by peaceful and consensual means consistent with CSCE principles;
3. Democracy and the rule of law must be supported; peaceful change should occur only through an orderly, democratic process, especially through elections;
4. Human rights based on full respect for all individuals, including the equal treatment of minorities, should be safeguarded; and