

Both Presidential and Congressional elections are slated for April 9, 1995, with Alberto Fujimori running for re-election as permitted by the 1993 Constitution. There are fifteen official presidential candidates and a full slate of Congressional aspirants nominated by registered political parties and a number of independent political movements. International observers have been invited by the government, including a specific request to the Organization of American States (OAS).

The corruption issue has played a prominent role in domestic politics over the past six months with the President's wife, Susana, leading the charge with accusations against current ministers, former ministers, and close advisors to the President. Her charges have been largely dismissed, but she has left the Government Palace and is running for a congressional seat (final eligibility still to be confirmed) in opposition to her husband's political supporters. Deficiencies in the judicial system remain largely unchanged from the situation a year ago. No significant corruption cases have gone to court.

Finally, although economic statistics are much improved and business conditions are promising, the 50 per cent who live in poverty are still waiting to experience any improvement in their plight. Privatization windfall funds have been promised for social development/assistance schemes but they have not as yet been forthcoming.

CANADIAN POSITION

The Canadian government continues to make enquiries to various Peruvian government ministries about specific cases where human rights appear to have been violated. Through our Embassy, we have also made direct contacts with purported victims to determine the status of their complaints and to enquire about their personal safety.

The Canadian government considers that serious efforts are being made by Peru to improve its human rights situation. Concerns will continue to be expressed at the official level on every possible occasion, with Ministers, officials, and with all significant presidential candidates in the 1995 election process.