

- 2) **Indigenous Exchange:** A history of this already exist with the Assembly of First Nations in Canada and some other Aboriginal organizations such as the Saskatchewan Indian Federated Colleges. Perhaps this could be a considered as a component of the local justice systems proposal, ensuring the interface between customary and legal law. The Institute of Environment and the Economy in Canada has some experience in indigenous knowledge systems. Bringing in someone with expertise on sentencing circles could be valuable. A gender focus must be ensured. One experience to share could be that of Canadian aboriginal women in 10 years of fighting Bill C-31.
- 3) **Models for Citizen Security and Community Involvement:** This was left for a follow-up sub-group to develop further.

\*\* A gender perspective must be integrated in all of our peacebuilding activities. The AGP unit of DFAIT is launching a policy initiative on gender and peacebuilding and will be looking for input, collaboration and ideas. Theory and practice must inform each other and we must ensure that the Peacebuilding Initiative is a gendered initiative.

### Short-Term:

- 1) **Follow-up to the Truth Commission:** In January, the REMI report will be presented and will require funding for its translation into French and the Mayan language. Minister Axworthy could consider going to Guatemala for its presentation, and the Canadian Embassy should be present. This report will give the names of individuals responsible for human rights abuses and deaths before the Peace Accords were signed. The Truth Commission can not do this. It is suggested that the Canadian Embassy and Canadian NGOs in Guatemala speak with the Archdiocese about providing protection to those involved in the project. There may be a role for Peace Brigades and Project Accompaniment in protection efforts.

The Truth Commission Report, to be completed in mid-1998, also requires diplomatic intervention to ensure that those involved in its preparation feel supported in presenting their recommendations. Compensation to the victims will likely require large international resources. Material compensation may be difficult but the Guatemalan government and army should be pressured to officially recognize their responsibility in the deaths.

- 2) **Role of Minugua:** Pressure is needed for an evaluation of how the consultative commissions are functioning. As the Guatemalan government takes legislative initiatives independent from these mechanisms, the people lose faith in the process, and the longevity of the consultative mechanisms is compromised.
- 3) **Pressure for a rapid increase in the size of the civilian police force:** Currently the selection is limited and some of the former police force (including bad elements) are being brought in.