

But the most encouraging development has been the resurgence of political dialogue in Guatemala, despite continual threats and acts of intimidation against the leaders and members of various organizations in the civil society. The press is free and spares no one, not even the President. The Army itself appears divided between a hard-line faction and a growing faction hesitant to continue previous practices. Finally, the indigenous people seem to be organizing themselves with increasing effectiveness. With some 70 per cent of the population, they represent a major political force that no one can afford to ignore in the long term.

CANADIAN POSITION

Respect for human rights is Canada's main concern in its dealings with Guatemala. We continue to follow the situation closely and to express our concerns openly to the Guatemalan authorities and their representatives in the Guatemalan Embassy in Canada.

Canada also continues to support various non-governmental human rights organizations by way of its own NGOs. Our financial support for the **Procuradoria de los Derechos Humanos**, which was previously led by Mr. Carpio, has assured us of good relations with the President. We realize that Mr. Carpio will have to face many major challenges, and that his government will need our full support as it seeks to improve the human rights situation. With this in mind, Canada is working on a \$1.5 million project to assist democratic development in Guatemala.

Canada will also continue to participate in the repatriation of refugees from Mexico to ensure full compliance with the 1992 accords and to maintain its support for Canadian NGOs involved in the process.

At the 50th session of the Commission on Human Rights, Canada will consult with other like-minded countries to determine whether we should attempt to have Guatemala examined under Item 12 of the Commission's agenda.

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