

available to provide for the implementation of new or revised laws. Of more serious concern is the reality that old habits die hard and many members of the former nomenklatura remain in positions of power and influence as reformed democrats. Members of the former Securitate also remain within the new state security institutions and maintain close personal relationships with the ruling elite. This is a matter of continuing concern to opposition parties and some domestic human rights organizations.

On balance, however, Romania has undergone a remarkable transition in the field of human rights. The individual is no longer subservient to the state. Institutions are gradually being formed to ensure that basic rights are encouraged, nurtured and protected. Many problems remain, particularly attitudinal ones with regard to minorities, but there is no doubt that Romania has begun the process of entering the European mainstream.

In recognition of the positive developments of the previous two years, CHR last year discontinued the mandate of its Special Rapporteur for Romania and asked instead that the Secretary General this year report on further developments including Romania's collaboration with the UN Human Rights Advisory Services Program.

#### CANADIAN POSITION

Canada will continue to monitor developments within Romania. We will ensure that Romanian authorities are aware of our interest, and changes in the situation which prompt concern will be brought to their attention.

The Secretary General's report to CHR will provide a basis for assessment of the effectiveness of UN Advisory Services in assisting the development of human rights infrastructure in Romania and elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

#### POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- Does the NGO community have any observations on Romania's requirements for assistance by the UN in developing its human rights infrastructure ?