

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

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**UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
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I. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the regulations of Grant LAG-0591-G-00-2049-00 (Grant 2049) of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIHR or the Institute), the IIHR submits its annual report on the activities that took place from January 1 through December 31, 1997 that were in whole or in part funded by USAID. The overall period of Grant 2049 is from July 1992 to June 1998.

II. IIHR-BACKGROUND

The Inter-American Institute of Human Rights is an autonomous international institution of an academic nature devoted to human rights education, training, research and promotion. It was created in 1980 under an agreement between the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Republic of Costa Rica, where its headquarters are located.

The Institute's mission is to promote and strengthen democracy and respect for human rights throughout the Americas by means of specialized training, research, education, political mediation and technical assistance for governmental and civil society bodies and international organizations.

In its activities the IIHR treats human rights as independent and inter-related principles and believes that guarantees of civil and political rights must be accompanied by the full realization of economic, social and cultural rights. Its work is carried out by interdisciplinary teams, which permits specialists from different geographical and professional areas to make complementary contributions to the analysis and resolution of the principal problems confronting the region.

The IIHR's governing body is its Board of Directors, which is comprised of twenty-seven experts in the field of human rights, elected in their individual capacity, who come from sixteen countries of the Americas. The Executive Directorate and the technical and administrative staff of the IIHR are responsible for the execution of the programs adopted by the Board.

PROGRAM AREAS OF THE IIHR

a. Education

This basic area of the Institute is comprised of the **Center for Educational Resources (CRE)**, which has a two-fold mission: serve those outside the IIHR as well as the programs of the Institute itself through technical assistance with respect to teaching materials, methodology and educational projects in general; the **Educational Operations Program**, which designs, executes and evaluates the annual Interdisciplinary Course, principal academic activity of the IIHR, and the Specialized Regional Courses; the **Information Unit**, which administers the Joint Library and Documentation Center in coordination with its counterparts of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights; and the **Editorial Unit**, which produces and distributes IIHR publications.

b. Center for Electoral Promotion and Assistance (CAPEL)

Through its work with electoral tribunals, legislative bodies and political parties, this program helps to strengthen the effective exercise of political rights in the different countries of the hemisphere. CAPEL carries out this work through three subprograms: **Strengthening of Electoral Organizations**, which executes electoral technical assistance projects and observation missions on technical aspects of elections; **Strengthening of Democratic Governability**, which provides advisory assistance to political parties (in areas such as internal democracy and their role in training political leaders), and to legislative or deliberative bodies, helping them to translate the aspirations of the electorate into concrete actions (for example, through the formulation of practical and effective laws or by exercising control over the Executive Branch); and **Strengthening of the Right to Political Participation**, which executes projects aimed at constitutional and legal development. It also organizes the *Inter-American Course on Elections and Democracy*, the purpose of which is to contribute to the promotion and strengthening of democratic electoral processes in Latin America.

c. Public Institutions

The work of the Area of Public Institutions is designed to contribute to the consolidation of democracy as a political system and national culture in the countries of the Americas. Elections are a prerequisite for, but not sufficient to guarantee, democracy. More than ever, the peoples of the hemisphere have a keen sense of the need for a strong institutional fabric to provide a framework for governability in the turbulent social conditions that have existed in the Region.

The Area of Public Institutions operates three different programs: **Security, Human Rights and Democracy**, which holds seminars and conducts technical missions in order to integrate the subject of human rights and the principles of

democracy into the educational system of military and police schools, and to train officials who sometimes have to resort to the use of force to maintain social order; **Administration of Justice**, which provides advisory services to judiciary schools in Central and South America; training for judges on the practical application of international and constitutional human rights provisions in domestic law and the modernization of the structure, organization and functioning of the judicial branch; **Ombudsman Program**, which is devoted to the specialized training of governmental human rights officials, so that they might better perform their functions, and the establishment of the Office of Ombudsman in those countries where it does not exist.

d. Civil Society

This Area focuses its efforts on the study of the principal human rights problems that affect civil society and on strengthening the organizational and institutional capabilities of civil society organizations. It is made up of the following programs: **Program for the Strengthening of Civil Society Organizations**, which provides technical assistance and training to organized groups within civil society in order to strengthen their participation in the promotion and protection of human rights; **Gender and Human Rights Program**, which conducts research on the major issues involved in women's rights and contributes to the development of education, promotion and training mechanisms and actions that foster equality and respect for women's rights; **Program for Migrant Populations**, which contributes to the search for integrated legal solutions and to protection and assistance efforts for social groups whose human rights are affected by internal migration and emigration caused by political and social violence; **Indigenous Peoples Program**, which focuses its efforts on technical assistance for indigenous organizations and NGOs committed to the development and protection of the rights of these peoples; **Prevention of Torture and the Treatment of Victims of Torture**, which uses creative approaches to promote the reinsertion and rehabilitation of survivors of political and police violence. The **Integrated Projects Unit** coordinates projects in which several or all the civil society programs participate, given that its target population includes groups served by all of them, while at the same time articulating experiences, services and resources of the programs around a shared objective.

Finally, under the coordination of the Directorate of Research and Development, the Institute executes two projects that are politically sensitive: the **Integrated Plan for Guatemala** and the **Special Plan for Cuba**. They have two common characteristics in that both involve difficult social situations and both involve the IHR as a whole and not as compartmentalized programs.

III. USAID FUNDED ACTIVITIES DURING 1997

1. ACTIVITIES IN HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1.a. Fifteenth Interdisciplinary Course on Human Rights

The Fifteenth Interdisciplinary Course on Human Rights was held June 16-27 in San José, Costa Rica. The Board of Directors of the IIHR decided to dedicate the Course to the memory of Dr. Fernando Volio Jiménez, an outstanding advocate of democracy and human rights.

The central theme underpinning the academic activities was the concept of the Social Democratic Constitutional State, which was divided into three subtopics: 1) participatory democracy; 2) towards the real effectiveness of economic, social and cultural rights; and 3) overcoming impunity as a requisite for the Rule of Law.

These topics were selected following a careful analysis of the democratization process in Latin America that began in the late 1970s and early 1980s and aroused great expectations and hopes among all sectors of Latin American societies, many of which had seen their rights violated during the period of authoritarian regimes.

The progress achieved in this democratization process has not been the same in every country of the region. Nevertheless, there are certain common features that highlight areas in which efforts must be taken to step up the pace of democratic consolidation in Latin America. It was therefore felt important that certain political, institutional, social and economic dilemmas be analyzed in order to construct a genuine democratic doctrine that will ensure the real exercise of rights, in practice and not only in theory.

Following a rigorous selection process, the 120 Spanish-speaking participants were chosen from the roughly 1,100 applications received. They represented countries in the Western Hemisphere and were drawn from both government agencies and civil society organizations. Other participants came from as far afield as Spain, Great Britain and Germany.

Methodological innovations were introduced for this Course, with the topics being addressed through lectures, panel discussions, case studies and workshops, and combined discussions and lectures, with the emphasis on two aspects: ethical-social and legal-political considerations.

Evaluation of the Fifteenth Interdisciplinary Course on Human Rights

This year the organizers of the Interdisciplinary Course evaluated the participants' level of knowledge of the basic topics that were addressed during the activity. The

evaluation revealed that most of the students increased their knowledge of the topics covered.

Evaluations were also carried out of the academic content, organization and methodologies employed in the Course, in both quantitative and qualitative terms. The data obtained suggests that the participants found the vast majority of the topics addressed during the lectures and modules to be extremely useful.

With regard to the Academic Compilation, 89% of the participants were of the opinion that the information it contained was appropriate, while 100% rated the methodologies employed as very good.

1.b. Other Courses: Target Groups

1.b.1. Regional Conference "Armed Forces, Democracy and Human Rights on the Eve of the Twenty-first Century" (Miami, February 4-6, 1997)

The IIHR and the US Army's Southern Command co-sponsored the second regional conference on democracy and human rights for the Ministers of Defense and Armed Forces Chiefs of countries in the hemisphere. This conference was organized following the success of the first one in February 1996. The Institute was invited to participate by Gen. Wesley Clark, the Commander-in-Chief of the Southern Command.

Over 190 senior officials from 32 countries in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean attended this important meeting, including ministers, armed forces chiefs, human rights ombudsmen, legislators with responsibilities in the areas of human rights or security, representatives of non-governmental and international organizations, and an outstanding team of academics and researchers.

The conference provided a forum for wide-ranging discussions on issues such as the strengthening of democracy, the promotion of and respect for fundamental rights, and the role that military institutions should play in guaranteeing these processes taking into considerations developments in the hemisphere.

Panel discussions were organized to address the following four topics: a) transition to democracy in the Western Hemisphere and the role of the armed forces in the protection of human rights; b) training and education in human rights in the armed forces; c) relations among the armed forces, governments, non-governmental organizations and international organizations; and d) progress in achieving respect for human rights in the Western Hemisphere; the situation in 1996-1997.

The special guest speakers invited to address the conference included Federico Mayor, Executive Director of UNESCO and John Shattuck, United States Assistant

Secretary of State for Democracy and Human Rights. José Ayala Lasso, the then United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights also participated in the panel discussions.

Senior IIHR officials also attended the activity. Especially important were the contributions of the IIHR's President, Pedro Nikken, and Board members Allan Brewer-Carías, Margaret Crahan, Diego García-Sayán and Claudio Grossman. Other participants from the IIHR were: Juan E. Méndez, Executive Director; Gonzalo Elizondo, Director of the Area of Public Institutions; Roberto Cuéllar, Director of Research and Development and of the Civil Society Area; and Rodolfo Cerdas and Marcelo Varela, Director and Head, respectively, of the Security Forces, Human Rights and Democracy Program.

1.b.2. Support to the Offices of Ombudsmen in Latin America

Missions to provide technical assistance to the Office of the Ombudsman of Panama (Panama City, January 28-29, February 4-5 and October 20-21, 1997)

As part of the Program's activities aimed at promoting and strengthening the institution of the Ombudsman in Latin America, a mission led by Program Officer Irene Aguilar traveled to Panama to meet with members of civil society and the actors involved in the process of creating this institution in Panama, and to determine the framework for the Institute's actions in that country.

Subsequently, at the invitation of the Presidential Human Rights Commission of Panama, Irene Aguilar represented the IIHR at the ceremony held for the signing into law of the bill creating the Office of the Ombudsman in Panama.

At the request of the designated Ombudsman, Italo Antinori, an IIHR team visited Panama October 20-21 with the purpose of sharing the experiences of ombudsmen in other countries. The members of the group were Leo Valladares, National Human Rights Commissioner of Honduras; Rodrigo Alberto Carazo, former Ombudsman of Costa Rica; and Irene Aguilar, IIHR Program Officer.

Workshop to provide follow-up to the Regional Forum on Migrants and Refugees in Central America (San José, March 6-8, 1997)

As part of the diagnostic that is being carried out in the countries of Central America in which human rights ombudsmen already operate, and in order to analyze the status of this institution, the IIHR organized the Regional Forum on Human Rights, Refugees and Migrant Populations, co-sponsored by the IIHR's Ombudsman and Human Rights Program and the Office of the Ombudsman of Costa Rica. The activity was attended by renowned experts from international institutions specializing in this subject and representatives of the units responsible for these matters in the Ombudsmen's Offices of the region.

Seminar on the Universal and Regional Protection of Human Rights (Sacatepéquez, March 19-20, 1997)

This activity was held March 19-20 to train 35 teachers who work in Sacatepéquez, Guatemala. The seminar had training modules on the universal and inter-American systems and on the international law of human rights.

Technical Assistance to the Ombudsman of Peru

At the beginning of June Juan Méndez, Executive Director; Diego García Sayán, a member of the Board of Directors; Roberto Cuéllar, Director of Research and Development; and Irene Aguilar, Program Officer, met with the Peruvian Ombudsman, Jorge Santistevan, in order to coordinate preparations for the Third Annual Congress of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen (FIO). Decisions were made on the main topics to be taken up by the Congress as well as the responsibilities the IIHR and the Office of the Ombudsman of Peru, as organizers of the event. Subsequently, during the month of October Aurora Riva, who is in charge of the area of international cooperation of the Office of the Ombudsman of Peru, traveled to Costa Rica in order to draft a request for financing the Congress. The proposal has been presented to various funding agencies so that the next General Assembly might be held in September 1998. The visit of Ms. Riva also served to define areas of cooperation between the IIHR and her Office during 1998.

Interdisciplinary workshop "Gender and Human Rights" (Mexico City, October 8-12, 1997)

As part of its activities, the Ombudsmen and Human Rights Program took part in the Interdisciplinary Workshop "Gender and Human Rights" organized by the National Human Rights Commission of Mexico. The main objective of this activity was to provide the members of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen with a gender vision that will enable them to detect situations of discrimination and violence and understand the scope of this problem in terms of human rights.

Visit of the Human Rights Ombudsman of Guatemala (San José, October 30-31, 1997)

On October 30-31 the Human Rights Ombudsman of Guatemala, Julio Arango, visited the IIHR to strengthen the ties that exist between the two institutions and to discuss the activities that will be jointly performed during 1998.

Visits of the National Human Rights Commissioner of Honduras (San José, September 1-2 and December 5-6, 1997)

Leo Valladares Lanza, National Human Rights Commissioner of Honduras, visited the IIHR in order to discuss various aspects of the Program. Together, a study was made of the institutional strategy within the framework of the Technical Secretariat of the FIO, and the organization of future activities and projects of the Program in several countries in the hemisphere.

Advantage was also taken of the December visit to plan the technical details of the activity that will be carried out jointly by the Administration of Justice and Ombudsmen Programs in Honduras in February 1998. This activity will focus on institutional relations between the Judicial Branch and the Ombudsman's Office—in this case, the National Commissioner—in order to foster closer relations between the two entities and thus improve the protection of human rights and the institutional response in this regard.

1.b.3. Project on the Support for the Reform of the Basic Law of the Judiciary of Nicaragua

The Area of Public institutions aided in drafting a new Basic Law of the Judiciary and in the campaign for its adoption. The draft was passed by the Nicaraguan Congress but vetoed by the President. After the veto and in view of the recognized need to replace the current antiquated law, the IIHR has continued to promote a new Basic Law and, to that end, convoked the Presidents of the Supreme Court, the National Assembly and its Judicial Commission to discuss the steps that should be taken. It has also undertaken various missions of technical assistance and follow-up in order to achieve a reformed law.

1.b.4. Technical Assistance to the Dominican Republic

A series of technical assistance missions was carried out with the purpose of consolidating democracy in the Dominican Republic. Results of these missions include an agreement of cooperation with the Presidential Commission for the Reform and Modernization of the State, with respect to the official sector, and a follow-up of activities with the *Participación Ciudadana* Movement, as concerns civil society organizations.

The main topic of this assistance dealt with civic education and human rights at the grass-roots level in view of the political processes currently underway in the country, technical assistance in the area of legislative reform with special emphasis on constitutional guarantees, the area of the judiciary and the creation of an Office of Ombudsman.

The IIHR is thus attempting to give content to the express request made by the President of the Dominican Republic when he visited the headquarters of the IIHR in May 1997. Proposals are now being prepared for specific projects of the aforementioned topics.

1.c. Production of educational materials

The Center for Educational Resources (CRE) developed a teachers' guide for the "*Derechito Plus*" game, which is a computer game that presents students with practical situations in which to apply universal principles of human rights.

The purpose of the guide is to give the educator a thorough grounding in the contents of the game in order to maximize its benefits. In this way, the teacher is able to reinforce the knowledge acquired by the students and to foster technical and practical thinking that will allow them to build a true interest in the full exercise of human rights.

2. KNOWLEDGE CREATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

2.a. Knowledge Creation

Migrant Peoples and those Affected by Violence Program (Peru, October 7-8 and Colombia, December 8, 1997)

On August 7-8, Cristina Zeledón, IIHR Program Officer and Coordinator of the Technical Secretariat of the Permanent Consultation on Internal Displacement in the Americas (CPDIA), participated in two activities organized by the National Group on Displacement in Peru and the Permanent Seminar on Agricultural Research: the workshop on "The current situation of the process of displacement for reasons of political violence in Peru 1980-1997," which was attended by all of the institutions that are members of the Group and representatives of the National Coordinator of Displaced Persons and the Forum on the "Current situation of displacement in Peru," in which participated representatives of organizations interested in the problem. In both activities the question of displacement and return to country of origin was analyzed as well as were proposals for action on the part of the different organizations represented. An important part of this exercise was the Central American experience regarding legal protection and humanitarian assistance resulting from the International Conference on Refugees, Repatriated and Displaced Persons in Central America (CIREFCA) and the 1994 San José Declaration on Refugees and Displaced Persons.

On December 8 the Coordinator of CPDIA met in Colombia with the members of the Consultation of that country to analyze the Final Report of the on-site mission to Colombia on the internally displaced and to discuss the proposal regarding a seminar-workshop for the first half of 1998. In addition, she met with

representatives of the government and NGOs to discuss matters of common interest.

2.b. Outreach Programs

The IIHR Editorial Unit produces some 40 publications each year in support of all the programs of the Institute. The range of publications include books, journals, newsletters and teaching materials.

The institutional publications financed by the USAID grant are those that are issued on a regular basis in the area of education and promotion of human rights and related topics. These publications contribute to institutional strengthening as they inform on the activities of the Institute.

Revista Nos. 24, 25 and 26 Boletín/Newsletter Nos. 46, 47, 48 and 49

The Boletín/Newsletter, issued quarterly in separate English and Spanish editions, has as its objective the dissemination and promotion of the activities of IIHR programs. During the period under consideration, Nos. 46, 47, 48 and 49 were published.

The IIHR Revista, a biannual publication, contains articles by human rights specialists and informs on the activities of the mechanisms of control of the inter-American system for the protection of human rights and those of the UN with respect to the countries of the hemisphere. The number of copies has been raised to 1200, due to an increase in requests by universities in the Americas and in Europe.

It was also necessary to reprint the Institute's brochure because of its wide distribution, especially at the many activities that the IIHR sponsors.

3. CENTER FOR ELECTORAL PROMOTION AND ASSISTANCE (CAPEL)

This specialized division of the Institute provides political and electoral assistance and promotes political rights with a multidisciplinary approach. It works with electoral organizations, legislative bodies and political parties. In addition to the activities described below, funds from the USAID grant were used to help pay the salaries of CAPEL staff and for other administrative costs.

3.a. Technical Assistance Programs

3.a.1. Exploratory missions

Exploratory missions for projects were carried out to Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic,

which led to working sessions with members of the electoral bodies and grass-roots organizations linked to political-electoral aspects of each country, with the purpose of exploring, preparing and negotiating the terms of reference of potential projects of interest in which IIHR/CAPEL might conduct activities of electoral technical assistance and support in the near future.

3.a.2. Horizontal cooperation

The IIHR/CAPEL promotes horizontal cooperation and provides specialized support among the electoral bodies that are members of the Associations of Electoral Bodies in order to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences with the idea of strengthening the institutions that administer elections. During the year, missions of horizontal cooperation were undertaken with respect to the electoral bodies of Nicaragua, Bolivia, Honduras and Guatemala.

3.b. Secretariat of Electoral Associations

3.b.1. Eleventh Conference of the Association of Electoral Organizations of Central America and the Caribbean/Tikal Protocol (Ruinas de Copán, Honduras, May 21-23, 1997)

The theme of the Eleventh Conference of the Association of Electoral Organizations of Central America and the Caribbean (Tikal Protocol) was the modernization of electoral processes. The program was spread over three days. On the first day the participants addressed the topics of the modernization of the electoral process and identity cards. On day two the report of the Executive Secretariat (IIHR/CAPEL) was presented and the draft resolutions of the conference were discussed and signed. On the last day, a visit was organized to the National Registry in San Pedro Sula in order to observe first-hand the technology that is being used for issuing identity cards.

The activity was attended by senior officials of the electoral organizations of Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua and Panama.

The main decisions taken were:

- To further modernize electoral systems in order to guarantee greater efficiency and transparency in all phases of the planning, organization and execution of electoral processes.
- To ratify the previous resolutions of the Tikal Protocol concerning the strengthening of ties with political and civil society organizations linked to the electoral system, the electorate and the mass media so as to foster and facilitate greater participation in future electoral processes.

- To strengthen cooperative links with parliaments in the region with a view to facilitating electoral reform or other related issues of interest to the electoral organizations, from the standpoint of the modernization of electoral processes and systems.
- To make every effort to press the pertinent authorities to enshrine the economic autonomy and independence of the electoral organizations in constitutional and legal provisions, and stipulate that the respective electoral organization has ultimate jurisdiction in electoral matters, in countries where this is still not the case.
- To press the Executive Branches of their respective countries to include the question of the strengthening of electoral organizations and systems on the agenda of the next Summit of the Presidents of Central America and the Dominican Republic.

At the suggestion of the Association of Parents and Friends of the Handicapped of Central America and the Dominican Republic, one of the most innovative resolutions adopted was the following:

- To adopt the measures and actions necessary to ensure that handicapped members of the electorate who meet the legal requirements for exercising the right to vote be afforded sufficient facilities to exercise said right in our countries.

3.b.2. Seventh Conference of the Association of South American Electoral Organizations/Quito Protocol (Santafé de Bogotá, August 28-29,1997)

The Seventh Conference of the Association of South American Electoral Organizations (Quito Protocol) took place August 28-29, 1997 in the city of Santafé de Bogotá. It was attended by senior officials of the electoral organizations of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Some of the most important points on which agreement was reached included the decisions to:

- Further modernize electoral systems in order to ensure greater efficiency and transparency in all phases of the planning, organization and execution of electoral processes.
- Strengthen ties with political and civil society organizations linked to the electoral system, the electorate and the mass media so as to foster and facilitate greater participation in future electoral processes.

- Entrust to CAPEL, in its capacity as the Executive Secretariat of the Association, the efforts to organize academic activities related to the study of and research on political parties, so as to enable the latter to better perform their functions as regards policies, organization, programming and representation. To the same end, it was recommended that electoral organizations organize and encourage activities of this kind.
- Foster and promote education and civic promotion programs, preferably in collaboration with other entities, in particular the mass media and national educational systems, for the construction of a strong political culture; in particular, programs designed to teach democratic values to children and young people.
- Emphasize the desirability of mounting permanent efforts to encourage the participation of the electorate in electoral processes, through programs for the dissemination of the virtues of the democratic system.
- Cooperate with political parties, in order to foster their competitiveness, equality and sustainability through the promotion of innovative ways of securing financing, and by guaranteeing transparency and legality in the use of their resources.
- Recommend to political organizations that they allocate funds for the promotion of life under a democratic system and citizen education, emphasizing democratic values.
- Urge the electoral organizations that are signatories to the Quito Protocol, within their sphere of competence, to establish procedures, customs and guidelines for the due supervision, verification and control of the financial resources of political organizations, so that management of same be made increasingly efficient and effective and a matter of public record.
- Strengthen cooperative links with parliaments in the region, with a view to facilitating the reform of electoral legislation, political parties and their financing, and citizen participation, in order to improve the structure and functioning of the democratic system.
- Support the efforts of the Executive Secretariat to create an Integrated Ibero-American Information System, incorporating data bases that will contain: all the electoral legislation of the Ibero-American countries in the respective original language; information taken from the statistical electoral records of Ibero-American countries, supplied by the electoral organizations themselves, through a network that would make it possible to disseminate it and conduct academic research on the subject; information on political and electoral, social and economic issues and

human rights, with emphasis on political rights, available for consultation by electoral organizations.

- Foster and promote the permanent updating of the information contained in the data bases of the Integrated Ibero-American Information System. To this end, the electoral organizations will furnish CAPEL, as the Executive Secretariat, with any changes in national legislation, political and electoral information and electoral statistics, via electronic means.
- Support the Executive Secretariat's efforts to create an institutional home page on the World Wide Web to disseminate the latest information available in the different data bases of the Integrated Ibero-Americana Information System.
- Support the Executive Secretariat in its efforts to secure the technical and financial resources needed to consolidate and strengthen the Integrated Ibero-Americana Information System.

3.c. Election Technical Assistance Teams (Observation Missions)

3.c.1. Parliamentary and Municipal Elections (El Salvador, March 16, 1997)

The Supreme Electoral Tribunal of El Salvador invited the IIHR/CAPEL to take part in the Election Monitoring Program organized on the occasion of the Parliamentary and Municipal Elections.

The Election Monitoring Program included activities with the members and specialists of the Electoral Tribunal, academics and some of the candidates for the National Congress.

The members of these mission were Mariano Fiallos, a member of the Board of Directors of the IIHR; Juan E. Méndez, Executive Director; Roberto Cuéllar, Director of Research and Development; and Luis A. Cordero, Director of the IIHR/CAPEL.

3.c.2. Referendum to approve the convening of a National Assembly to draft electoral reforms (Ecuador, May 25, 1997)

A mission composed of Fernando Mayorga, Vice President of the National Electoral Council of Colombia, Eduardo Núñez, Coordinator of the IIHR Citizen Participation and Governability Programs, and Andrés Araya, Coordinator of the IIHR Program for the Strengthening of Electoral Organizations, was dispatched to observe the referendum held on May 25 to endorse Fabián Alarcón as president and approve the convening of a National Assembly to draft electoral reforms.

The members of the mission took advantage of their visit to strengthen cooperation with Ecuador. The IIHR/CAPEL signed a letter of understanding with the Supreme Electoral Tribunal under which it is to provide technical assistance. The CAPEL officials also held talks with Gabriel Montalvo of the IDB and officials of USAID/Ecuador in order to disseminate the IIHR/CAPEL's new Strategic Programmatic Areas.

3.c.3. General Elections (Bolivia, June 1, 1997)

A mission of observers was dispatched to Bolivia to monitor the general elections. The delegation, which was in the country from May 28 to June 2, was composed of Rodrigo Carazo Odio, former President of the Republic of Costa Rica; Margaret E. Crahan and Rodolfo Piza, members of the IIHR's Board of Directors; Luis Alberto Cordero, Director of the IIHR/CAPEL; Carlos Urruty, President of the Electoral Court of Uruguay; Alvaro Chocano, President of the National Elections Board of Peru; César Augusto Conde Rada, a member of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Guatemala; Fernando Mayorga, Vice President of the National Electoral Council of Colombia; Eduardo Villaguirán, Vice President of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Ecuador; Armando Cazar, a member of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Ecuador; Noel Vidaurre, President of the Justice Commission of the National Assembly of Nicaragua; Carlos Martini, a Paraguayan political scientist and journalist; Gonzalo Brenes, general consultant of the IIHR/CAPEL; and Rafael Toribio, a member of the Board of Directors of the *Participación Ciudadana* in the Dominican Republic.

The delegation was able to exchange views with the presidential candidates and also held a meeting with the members of the National Electoral Court (CNE) and attended a technical talk on the electoral process given by Juan Carlos Laclé, deputy director of the project.

On the day before the elections, the observers divided into three groups. One group traveled to Sucre, a second visited the city of Santa Cruz, while the third remained in La Paz, where they attended the ceremony held to officially inaugurate the elections, which was attended by President Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada.

The three groups visited the Departmental Electoral Courts in their respective cities and the polling stations as soon as voting began. In the evening, they observed the counting of votes. On June 2 the members of the delegation held a session to evaluate the mission.

3.c.4. Federal Elections (Mexico, July 6, 1997)

At the invitation of the electoral organization of Mexico, the IIHR/CAPEL sent a mission to observe the federal elections held in that country on July 6.

Composed by distinguished Latin American experts on electoral affairs, this mission was led by Pedro Nikken, President of the IIHR. The election program included a series of activities with staff members of the electoral organizations, academics, the mass media and some political leaders, as Carlos Castillo Peraza (PAN) and Cuactémoc Cárdenas (PRD).

3.c.5. Elections for Deputies and Provincial Officials (Argentina, October 26, 1997)

The members of the mission were Luis Alberto Cordero, Director of the IIHR/CAPEL, Juan Ignacio García, Director of the Electoral Service of Chile; José Orlando Dacal, Minister of the Electoral Court of Bolivia; Jesús Orozco and Eloy Fuentes, members of the Electoral Tribunal of the Judiciary of the Federation of Mexico; Carmen Amelia Cedeño, Executive Director of *Participación Ciudadana* in the Dominican Republic; and Sonia Cansino of *Women for Dignity and Life*.

The observers carried out a full program of activities in the country from October 24-27. They held meetings with the members of the National Electoral Chamber, Jorge Otaño and Felipe González Roura, constitutional lawyer Daniel Sabsay, Manuel Mora y Araujo, and candidates of the Justicialista, Unión Cívica Radical and Frente País Solidario (FREPASO) parties.

On election day, the members of the mission observed the official opening of various polling stations, the progress of the voting, the closing of the polling stations and the vote count.

3.c.6. Municipal Elections (Colombia, October 26, 1997)

At the invitation of the electoral organization of Colombia, the IIHR/CAPEL dispatched a mission to observe the municipal elections held in that country.

Composed of distinguished Latin American experts on electoral affairs and academics, the mission was led by Marco Tulio Bruni-Celli, a member of the Board of Directors of the IIHR. The other members of the mission were: Rolando Costa Arduz, a member of the National Electoral Court of Bolivia; Fernando Ojesto and Mauro Miguel Reyes, members of the Federal Electoral Tribunal of Mexico; Julio Flores, a member of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of El Salvador; Osmundo Villatoro, a member of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Guatemala; Adán Palacios, a member of the National Elections Tribunal of Honduras; Jorge Samper, a Deputy of the National Assembly of Nicaragua; Javier Ciurlizza, Secretary General of the Andean Commission of Jurists; Oscar Fernández, a Costa Rican political scientist; and IIHR/CAPEL Program Officer Ileana Aguilar.

The mission arrived in Bogota on October 22 and remained there through October 27. It met with the President of the Republic, Ernesto Samper, the members of the

National Electoral Council, and the Head of the National Registry, Orlando Abello, as well as with leaders of the Liberal and Conservative Parties and representatives of the principal minority parties. An academic activity was held for leading Colombian political analysts to discuss the sociopolitical context of the electoral process, and a meeting with journalists from the *El Tiempo* newspaper, to find out the views of the media.

On election day the observers visited different parts of Bogota to witness the voting; they wound up their work with a meeting to evaluate the mission.

3.c.7. General Elections (Honduras, November 30, 1997)

The members of the Mission were: Luis Alberto Cordero, Director of the IIHR/CAPEL; Félix-Castillo Milla, a member of Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Guatemala; Manuel Herrero, Electoral Commissioner of the State Elections Commission of Puerto Rico; Francisco Javier Barreiro, President of the Regional Electoral Chamber of Mexico City; the Hon. Edwin Mundo Ríos, Representative of District No. 2 of the Chamber of Representatives of Puerto Rico; Miguel Arcángel Vásquez, Alternate Member of the Central Electoral Board of the Dominican Republic; José Portillo, Director General of ONPE, Peru; Luis Valdéz, Head of Informatics of the TSE of Guatemala; Efraín Arguedas, a IIHR/CAPEL external consultant; Andrés Araya, Coordinator of the IIHR/CAPEL Program; and IIHR/CAPEL Program Officer Orlando Tapia.

The mission's program involved activities between November 27 and December 1. Meetings were held with the President of the Republic, Carlos Roberto Reina, officials of the National Elections Tribunal, the National Human Rights Commissioner, and the presidential candidates of the National Party, Democratic Unification and the Innovation and Unity Party. A round table was also held with the director of the opinion poll firm Borge y Asociados, and another with representatives of the mass media.

On election day, the observers toured different polling stations along five pre-established routes (Tegucigalpa, Intibuca, Cortéz, Comayagüela and Choluteca). During their visits, the members of the mission observed the opening of polling stations, the progress of the elections, the closing of the polling stations and the vote count. An evaluation of the Honduran electoral process was held on December 1.

3.c.8. Election of Representatives to the Constituent Assembly (Ecuador, November 30, 1997)

The Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Ecuador invited the IIHR/CAPEL to take part in the Election Monitoring Program organized on the occasion of the election of representatives to the Constituent Assembly. Program officer Ricardo Valverde

represented the IIHR/CAPEL at this activity, which also involved representatives of the Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico, the Inter-American Development Bank and diplomatic missions in Ecuador.

The election observation program included a series of activities with the members and specialists of the electoral organizations, academics, the mass media and the candidates of political parties and several social movements for the 70 seats in the next National Constituent Assembly.

On election day, the IIHR/CAPEL's representative visited several polling stations in the Provinces of Pichincha and Imbabura, as well as in the Provincial Electoral Tribunal of Pichincha in Quito.

3.c.9. Parliamentary Elections (Chile, December 11, 1997)

The members of the Mission were: Luis Alberto Cordero, Director of the IIHR/CAPEL; Jorge Otaño, Secretary of the National Electoral Chamber of Argentina; Waldemar Fernández, Minister of the Electoral Court of Uruguay; José Luis de la Peza, President of the Electoral Tribunal Electoral of the Judicial Branch of the Federation of Mexico; Jesús Orozco and Lionel Castillo, Members of the Electoral Tribunal of the Judicial Branch of the Federation of Mexico; Manuel Carrillo of the Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico; and IIHR/CAPEL Official Andrés Araya.

Between December 9 and 12, the observers met with the Director of the Electoral Service of Chile, Juan Ignacio García, the President of the Election Monitoring Tribunal and leaders of the principal political parties taking part in the elections. A round table was also held with distinguished local academics.

3.d. Education and training

Eighth Inter-American Course on Elections and Democracy (San José, November 3-7, 1997)

The IIHR/CAPEL organized the Eighth Inter-American Course on Elections and Democracy, with the co-sponsorship of USAID.

The objective of the course is to contribute to the promotion and strengthening of democratic political processes in Latin America and the Caribbean, as a means of guaranteeing respect for the civil rights recognized in international human rights instruments. The activity was attended by 100 participants drawn from different sectors, including representatives of national electoral organizations, academics and members of political parties and civil society organizations from all parts of the western hemisphere. The methodology was modified for the Eighth Course to permit the participants to play a more active role and thus enrich the exchange of

experiences among the sectors in question. The work was structured around thematic and chronological modules. The first module focused on an analysis of the political, economic, social and cultural aspects of the national, regional and international context, from the standpoint of the theme of the Eighth Course: governability and the reform of politics. The second module focused on the analysis of alternative scenarios for the reform or redesign of political institutions, with the emphasis on social and political consensus-building.

3.e. Historical recovery

For the first time since it was formed more than a decade ago, IIHR/CAPEL has begun to comb its files to save that which is historically important. Professional archivists have initiated the review and classification of all CAPEL documents since its creation. In addition, the information obtained during this process is being made available on a specialized icon in the IIHR network.

3.f Reporting Mechanisms (Publications)

CAPEL *Cuaderno* No. 42

The topic highlighted in this edition is "Legislative Development and Political Reform in Latin America." The publication includes an essay by Hugo Alfonso Muñoz on parliamentary modernization in Latin America and an analysis by Constantino Urcuyo on the modernization and legislative development of the Costa Rican Congress.

IIHR/CAPEL decided to incorporate the topic of parliamentary modernization in its *Cuaderno* series because it believes that a strong democracy is not possible without an efficient parliament that is capable of guaranteeing political stability, confidence in institutions and juridical security that promote economic and social development.

Bulletin of the Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies No. 9

This publication contains information regarding elections held during the first half of 1997, the Conference of the Protocol of Tikal, changes in membership of electoral bodies and documents of interest.

Electoral Bulletin No. 16

Contains the usual sections: *Reportes Electorales*, with observations of the elections held in Brazil, Nicaragua, Chile, Puerto Rico, the United States and Paraguay; and *Analysis y Opinión*, with an analysis of the municipal elections in Peru (1995-1996), prepared by Fernando Rospigliosi. The bulletin also includes

the sections: *Documentos, Asociaciones de Organismos Electorales* and *Calendario Electoral*.

Electoral Bulletin No. 17

This biannual publication includes an analysis of the elections held during the first semester of 1997 in El Salvador, Haiti and Bolivia. It also contains an Analysis of the Convention of the National Liberation Party of Costa Rica. The main topic of the Bulletin "Experiences of the Participation of Organized Civil Society in the Electoral Processes of America" deals with all facets of the electoral process in which civil society participates. Finally, there are the Decisions of the XI Conference of Tikal and documents such as the Declaration of San José, signed by the Presidents of Central America and the United States and the Declaration of Panama II of the XIX Meeting of the Presidents of Central America.

3.g. Special Projects

Paraguay

The aim of this project is to aid different sectors of Paraguayan civil society in observing the general elections to be held in that country on May 10, 1998. After many consultations, it was decided to devote the project to the organization and execution of a quick count of the results of that election. In addition, Saka-Initiative for Electoral Transparency was chosen as the local counterpart.

4. LIBRARY, DOCUMENTATION CENTER AND DATA BASE

The IIHR Information Unit is composed of the Joint Library with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Documentation Center. The projects carried out by the Information Unit during 1997 were:

4.1 Library

4.1.1 Acquisitions

The Library continues to purchase books and periodicals in the areas of international and human rights law that need strengthening and that serve the interests of the IIHR and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights as well as the public in general.

4.1.2 Renovation of computer equipment

The Library has several new computers and a new laser printer that it shares with the Documentation Center. These purchases will enable an improved processing

of information into the data bases of the Library and better service to the users of the Library.

4.1.3 Service to the public

There continues to be significant increase in the use of the periodical collection as well as consultations from internal users (IIHR staff and Judges of the Inter-American Court) and from external users. This is a tribute to the completeness of the collection.

4.1.4 Systematization of information

The analysis, description and input of information into the data base of periodicals and books in the SIABUC program continues in order to offer the external and internal users of the Library current information with a high degree of reliability.

4.2 Documentation Center

4.2.1 Compact Disk "The Juridical Dimension of Human Rights"

Work continued on the broadening of the contents of the IIHR compact disk, information was gathered on legislation concerning the Ombudsmen, constitutional changes, criminal, procedural and electoral codes of the countries of the hemisphere.

4.2.2 Academic System of Information in Human Rights

The data base system of the Center continues to be enlarged and now has 7500 entries in the MODEL base. These entries have been placed on Internet. Subscriptions were renewed for important informational bulletins of the region.

4.2.3 Computer equipment and telecommunications

Four computers and a laser printer were acquired in order to provide better service.

4.2.4 Service to the public

Service to the public during the period of this report increased considerably, not only in the numbers of consultations but also in their complexity. The services provided can be divided into: a) support for research and writing of undergraduate and graduate theses; b) compilation of specialized bibliographies to be used as support material in the Interdisciplinary Course and other activities of the IIHR; c) documentary support for the Ministries of Education and Educational Centers for the development of workshops on education in human rights; d) support for

international bodies and governments through their embassies for making reports; e) compiling informational packets on current topics; f) support for the Inter-American Commission and NGOs in the presentation of cases before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

4.2.5 Human Rights Map

This project produced seventeen reports. It was carried out with the help of four students from the University of Costa Rica, who are completing a university requirement for community service in the Documentation Center.

5. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

An essential part of the cooperation that USAID provides to the Institute are the funds assigned to institutional support. This assistance has a substantial multiplier effect since it enables the IIHR to obtain other grants, to best take advantage of its human resources and because of its impact on each project.

5.1. Institutional Development

The concept of "institutional development" was incorporated into the Institute as a result of USAID evaluations. The Institute is conceived as one big project that encompasses all of the specific projects. Funds for institutional development go toward strengthening this central trunk of the IIHR.

5.1.1. Evaluation

During 1997, at the specific request of USAID, the Institute carried out a thorough evaluation of its mission and its programs. In January Stephen Cox and Michael Shifter, as external facilitators, led an exercise of internal evaluation for the Directors, selected academic staff, several members of the IIHR Board of Directors and observers from some of the agencies of international cooperation, including USAID, that finance its activities.

Two months later, the same group met to discuss the work assigned at the January meeting. The external evaluators then presented their report, which was followed by a response drafted by the IIHR staff who had participated in the exercise. A comparative study of the two reports was prepared to be discussed by the academic staff in January 1998 and measures were taken to implement the pertinent recommendations and to construct a Plan of Action for the future.

The procedure adopted, a combination of external consultants and an active participation by staff members and others, has proved to be successful.

5.1.2. Training

Funds continue to be used to train staff in the use of the Internet, which along with e-mail, is now available on all IIHR computers. It was also possible to train academic personnel of other human rights organizations so as to improve their awareness of the other systems of human rights protection and to increase the technical capacity of staff. With regard to the latter, the IIHR sponsored the participation of staff members in the Annual Human Rights Course given by the International Institute of Human Rights.

5.1.3. Project Development

Several institutional missions were conducted. Institutional missions are those visits by the Directorate or the highest levels of the IIHR to establish different contacts (donors, governments, other international organizations, beneficiaries, etc.) to support the development or execution of programs. During the period covered by the report, especially relevant were the contacts made with new donors such as the Open Society Fund. Visits were also made to the United States and Europe in connection with the negotiation of new grants and new agreements.

5.2. Institutional Support

This vital support enables the Institute to: a) maintain its political and administrative independence; b) search for additional funding; and c) respond to challenges that arise unexpectedly and thus can not be programmed.

It is important for the IIHR that its funding is obtained from the widest source of donors as possible. At the present time the Institute is financed by governments, private foundations and non-governmental organizations. This broad diversification gives the IIHR the political freedom necessary for its work and grants it credibility, especially with its beneficiaries.

Since its creation in 1980, the Institute has grown to the point where it now has four distinct but interrelated areas (Education, the Center for Electoral Promotion and Assistance, Public Institutions and Civil Society), which carry out programs throughout the hemisphere. A concomitant of this programmatic growth has been a small increase in the support staff.

Institutional support funds are used to pay the salaries of the accountants, computer specialists, etc., who are necessary for the operation of the institution. These funds also contribute to the salaries of the Executive Director and others who do not work directly with the specific IIHR programs. Therefore, institutional funds contribute indirectly to all the projects that the Institute conducts.

The funds are also employed to assure the efficient and honest administration of the IIHR, as verified by the external audit performed by an internationally recognized firm. This guarantees to the donors that the funds given to the institution are used in accordance with the rules established in the respective agreements of cooperation and, what is more important, are linked to the objectives for which the Institute exists.

These funds also serve for the ordinary functioning of headquarters, which includes expenses for office and computer supplies, advertisements, security, transportation, cleaning and bank and insurance charges.

The IIHR is a dynamic institution that does not have the luxury of a guaranteed budget, which necessitates a constant search by its Director and Heads of Programs to obtain new and renewed grants for its activities aimed at the advancement of democracy and human rights.

Relations with donors are, however, only one side of the coin. A dialogue is also required with the projects' beneficiaries, who range from individuals with great political influence to others who are subject to repression. These relations with government officials and those of organizations of civil society, whose involvement is indispensable for the consolidation of democracy in Latin America, advance the work of the Institute.

That is why institutional missions are carried out by the Institute. By virtue of these missions, meetings are held to obtain funds for the management of programs and to negotiate agreements for projects in the countries in which it hopes to work. Especially important are institutional missions of the Executive Directorate to various countries to renegotiate the agreements of financial support for the Institute.

These funds also contribute to professional development and training. In today's fast-changing world, it is necessary that staff members be given the opportunity to keep themselves current on new developments in the field. One of the best ways to achieve this is through attendance at seminars, conferences and courses. Not only do these activities make for better trained employees but they also raise morale.

Institutional funds are also employed to hold the annual meeting of the IIHR Board of Directors and meetings of its Permanent Commission. The Board is the Institute's governing body and is composed of twenty-seven internationally respected experts who provide advice and guidance on an institutional and programmatic basis. This year the Board met April 10-11 at which time the activities carried out during the year were reviewed as were the projected activities. The Board congratulated the Executive Director for the work accomplished during his first year. The Permanent Commission, which meets

periodically, is composed of the Institute's President, Vice Presidents and two members of the Board and advises the Executive Director.

Finally, institutional funds are important in order to take advantage of opportunities that, by their very nature, cannot be programmed.

IV. CONCLUSION

The Institute continues to maintain two groups of programs that are complementary. On the one hand, programs of education and promotion, the principal one of which is the Interdisciplinary Course (which continues to have a high proportion -10 to 1- of applications for each participant accepted) that bring forth new actors in the current environment of Latin American democracies. For the latter, there is a need to reconceive the role of the armed forces and other security forces, as well as other public institutions, that traditionally have not had human rights as a primary consideration. At the same time, concern for the future of the inter-American system continues to play a large role in the policies of the Institute. On the other hand, the other group of programs sponsored by USAID, which are those concerning the consolidation of democracies and deal mostly with political rights. These programs are administrated by the Center for Electoral Promotion and Assistance and the networks that have been established with the Electoral Tribunals of the hemisphere. They include technical assistance, research and observation missions, that is, the complete supervision of elections.

Finally, it is important to note that the institutional support given by USAID continues to be an essential element for the survival of the Institute. This support is important because it benefits all of the programs of the IIHR. Through this budgetary item, USAID has contributed to the success of all of the activities carried out during the period.