

V. OTHER AGENCIES AND ENTITIES

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

Established by the General Assembly in 1986, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) is guided by the principles and objectives spelled out in the Inter-American Program of Action of Rio de Janeiro against the Illicit Use and Production of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Traffic Therein, as well as the provisions of the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere, approved by the Commission in 1996 and by the General Assembly in 1997. It is a hemispheric forum that enables the member states to evaluate policies and strategies and to exchange ideas on and experiences with the problem of drugs. Its main objectives are to expand and strengthen the member states' capacity to lower the demand for illegal drugs and prevent their use, to combat their illicit production and trafficking, and to promote a suitable inter-American response through more regional activities involving research, training of specialized personnel and reciprocal assistance.

CICAD's mission is to promote and facilitate multilateral cooperation across the Hemisphere to control the use and production of illegal drugs, traffic therein and related crimes. In the last year, the Commission has also tackled the growing concern over the links between terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering and arms smuggling. The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) considers a decline in drug-related corruption as one of the gauges of the progress a country has made toward reducing the drug problem.

Research and key sources of information indicate that illegal drug use is on the rise in many OAS countries. Drugs like ecstasy, heroine and metamphetamines are turning up in areas where they were not previously reported and prescription drug abuse is an ever-increasing problem. To take on these new challenges, CICAD's program on Demand Reduction now working on all abused substances -legal and illegal- from a public health approach. Particular attention is given to the relationship between HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, domestic violence and substance abuse.

CICAD's action areas are as follows: the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), Demand Reduction, Supply Reduction, Control Measures, Alternative Development, Legal Development and Cooperation, Money Laundering, Institutional Building, and the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs.

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)

The MEM completed its first evaluation with the January 31, 2002 publication of the "*Progress Report in Drug Control - 2001, Implementation of Recommendations from the First Evaluation Round, 1999-2000.*" The Commission approved a series of revised indicators for the 2001-2002 evaluation period and the Secretariat prepared an electronic version of the questionnaire, making it easier for the national coordination agencies to send in the completed questionnaires to the Governmental Experts Group (GEG). The latter met three times in 2002 (April, June and October) and drafted 34 national reports and the hemispheric report, all of which the Commission approved at its thirty-second regular session in December 2002. The evaluations for the second round (2001-2002) were made public at an event on January 29, 2003, with the Commission's Chairman, Lic. Rafael Macedo de la Concha, presiding.

The first MEM reports showed clearly that a lack of funds and qualified personnel had made it impossible for some member States to put certain recommendations into practice. Therefore, one of the Commission's top priorities has been to provide the technical and financial assistance that the countries need and request in two key areas: improving the quality and currency of drug-related statistics, and establishing drug abuse prevention programs targeted at children and adolescents, women and workers in

the major industries. In 2003, that assistance will go to some 14 countries, all thanks to grants from Canada and the United States totaling more than a million United States dollars.

Demand Reduction

The centerpiece of CICAD's Demand Reduction program is a project to get drug-abuse prevention issues introduced in undergraduate and graduate nursing school curricula. Some 6,000 future nursing professionals are being trained to perform an active role in drug abuse prevention, promoting health, and the recovery of former drug addicts. More than 500 members of nursing school teaching staffs have been instructed in the new curriculum.

In an innovative partnership between CICAD and Spain's National Drug Program, the Ibero-American Online Master's Degree in Drug Addiction Studies was created in October 2002. The program is the first online graduate program in the Americas dealing with substance abuse problems. More than 300 applicants met the enrollment requirements, and a total of 127 students from 19 countries enrolled for the course's first year (2002-2003). The program is being given by a consortium of 5 Latin American and 2 Spanish universities using the online capabilities of Spain's Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia [National Distance Education University] (UNED).

In the Caribbean, CICAD sponsored a course in Belize titled *From Prison to Community: Sharing Treatment Models*, which exposed parole officers, drug treatment counselors, magistrates and social workers to alternatives to sentencing for minor drug-related infractions and ways to get the offenders into community-based drug-treatment programs and services. A regional workshop held in Jamaica in June 2002, brought together government representatives and representatives of nongovernmental organizations active in the prevention and treatment of drug abuse, affording them an opportunity to share resources and improve drug abuse prevention and treatment networks.

Supply Reduction

A new program on community policing, launched in 2002, is a collaborative effort between police and community to tackle the problem of gang crime. In March, CICAD and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) co-sponsored a seminar in Vancouver, Canada, to introduce the RCMP's community policing model to participants from 13 countries. This effort will continue in 2003, when the pilot project begins in the Dominican Republic.

In 2001, CICAD approved the creation of a Group of Experts on Pharmaceuticals. The Group met for the first time in August 2002 to examine control of pharmaceuticals, including the need to update national laws and to train inspectors and health professionals. The Group will also be preparing manuals and reference guides.

With CICAD's support, the Regional School of the Andean Community for Anti-Drug Intelligence, now in its third year of operation in Lima Peru, held two six-week training seminars on police intelligence work, including undercover operations, handling of informants, controlled deliveries and research into the laundering of assets.

Maritime cooperation and port safety and security are essential to controlling drug trafficking. In 2002, CICAD organized an international conference on port security, held in Panama, to introduce other countries of the region to the standardized security system being used in Colombian ports.

Alternative Development

CICAD's Alternative Development program has projects underway in six countries in South America and the Caribbean. Under an agreement signed by CICAD and the Government of Bolivia in 2002, two priority projects got started. The first is the deeding of lands in the Norte de Yungas, being conducted in conjunction with the National Agrarian Reform Institute (INRA) in an effort to craft new policies in investment planning, management and distribution. Approximately 60,000 hectares of land will be inspected and some 1,000 property titles issued. The new landowners will have greater access to credit.

The second project came out of a request that the Bolivian Government made of CICAD in April 2002, to conduct an in-depth evaluation of the impact that the "With Dignity Plan" has had on the production and use of illegal drugs in that country and traffic therein. The evaluation of the With Dignity Plan's four pillars –alternative development, prevention and rehabilitation, eradication and interdiction- was finished in July and found that the illegal coca crop was down by over 90%, the supply of cocaine was down by 80% and another 60,000 hectares had been planted with legal crops, for a total of 120,000 hectares being cultivated with a variety of legal crops. However, the evaluation warned that the cultivation of coca could spring back. It also underscored the crucial but complex link between development and eradication, which impacts many economic and social factors like infrastructure, market access for the legal crops, and the social upheaval that the eradication of coca causes within the country.

Legal Development

Through its Legal Development program, CICAD is actively promoting the control of firearms and related materials by promoting observance of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) and CICAD's Model Regulations for the Control of the International Movement of Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition. In February 2002, a regional seminar was held in Brazil in cooperation with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC), the objective being to get the Model Regulations into force in all countries of the Hemisphere. CICAD and UN-LiREC have also prepared an instructors' training program about matters related to the control of firearms, slated to begin in April 2003. Also in early April, CICAD's Group of Experts on Firearms will reconvene in Managua, Nicaragua, to consider amendments intended to update the Model Regulations, particularly with respect to the role of intermediaries and the measures to control exportation of firearms and munitions.

In cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the program is organizing and coordinating a series of moot court proceedings in various countries, intended to change criminal procedure.

Money Laundering

The CICAD program to instruct judges and public prosecutors about money laundering trained 125 representatives from the judicial systems of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. In August 2002, CICAD began a project in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank, intended to strengthen financial intelligence units that deal with money laundering. A number of member States received technical assistance with preparation of juridical frameworks, institutional building, training and technological assistance in intelligence methods.

At its thirty-second regular session, held in December 2002, the Commission approved amendments to CICAD's Model Regulations Concerning Laundering Offenses connected to illicit drug trafficking and other serious offenses, which it recommended to the member States. The amendments incorporate the

definition of terrorism financing already established by other international organizations and also adopt the eight special recommendations of the Action Group on Financial Matters.

Inter-American Observatory on Drugs

The Inter-American Observatory on Drugs, the CICAD mechanism handling statistics, information and research, has helped 13 member States to conduct surveys on drug use among high-school students, thus carrying out one of the MEM's important recommendations. The study on the economic, social and human cost of drugs, ordered by the Third Summit of the Americas, is moving forward with the cooperation of the Robert Woods Johnson Medical School, with a pilot project in three member states.

The Observatory helped 10 member States to establish National Observatories on Drugs with funding from the Government of Spain and the European Commission.

Institutional building and establishment of National Drug Control Commissions

In partnership with the governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, CICAD's Institutional Building program executed an innovative project to prevent drug abuse across their common borders and to conduct research on drug use in twin cities in two different countries. CICAD is also providing technical and financial assistance to Haiti, where the first national drug control commission has been set up and a national plan is being crafted. In 2002, it conducted a workshop in Grenada on preparation of its national drug control plan.

A Central American Summit was held in August under CICAD auspices. Attending were the heads and executive secretaries of the national drug control commissions, as well as representatives of the national legislatures and judiciaries. It culminated with a firm commitment to subregional cooperation on the drug problem.

INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

The Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), established by the General Assembly in 1994, has technical autonomy in the performance of its functions, within the limits set by the OAS Charter, the CITEL statutes and the mandates of the General Assembly. Its main objective is to facilitate and promote continuous development of telecommunications in the Hemisphere. It serves as the OAS' principal advisory body in telecommunications-related matters. At CITEL's Third Assembly, held in 2002, the Commission was restructured to enable it to respond more vigorously to the needs of the member States and associate members.

Recognizing the importance of the new information and communications technologies (ICTs), all the countries are trying to make those technologies more accessible and make more use of them. However, the gulf between those that have and those that do not have access to the information and communications technologies is widening.

Although many reports have been written about the ICTs' growth and development, especially about their impact on the economic and social life of countries and their citizens, these evaluations are frequently duplications of effort. Relatively few of the proposals put forward ever actually materialize.

These last few years have seen stark contrasts in the telecommunications sector. Although its installed infrastructure continues to grow, its private sector is experiencing hard times, including job losses, cancellation of various projects and, in general, growing skepticism among financial circles about the viability of the new services.

To respond to the challenges that the telecommunications situation poses, CITEL took a number of measures in 2002 to build up its capacity to respond to the needs of its member States and associate members. The following were some of the principal measures taken by CITEL in 2002:

Promoting connectivity in the Americas through preparation and approval of the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and the Quito Plan of Action

The Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and the Quito Plan of Action are tools that will increase awareness of telecommunications' impact on the countries' economic and social development. This conceptual frame of reference serves as a catalyst to spur development, expansion and operation of telecommunications services and networks. Although these documents were tailored to the specific characteristics of the countries of the Americas, the general guidelines they offer can be of help elsewhere in the world.

In 2002, these documents were completed and sent to the OAS Executive Secretariat for the Summit Process. That Secretariat was asked to decide the appropriate measures to promote subsequent development and implementation, consistent with each member State's needs. The documents were also presented at the World Telecommunications Development Conference and the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), both meetings held the same year. There CITEL received substantial support, which enables a number of member States, based on these general guidelines, to develop their national agendas or strategic plans.

CITEL has contributed actively to the efforts being made internationally to close the digital divide, which it regards as one of its main activities.

Support to the member States and associate members in sharing information and best practices to be able to cope with the changes in telecommunications.

This objective is related to the role that CITELE traditionally plays as a forum wherein its member States and associate members mutually support each other. CITELE provides a setting in which the member States can exchange experiences and best practices, which helps them keep their legal and regulatory frameworks up to date, predictable and consistent and to develop their telecommunications and universal access.

During 2002, CITELE presented a report on Tele-education in the Americas. A book on tele-medicine is also in the works. Both publications describe the status of these services in each country of the region and were done in cooperation with the International Telecommunications Union.

In the case of the Permanent Consultative Committees, seminars, discussions in electronic forums and roundtables enhanced the transfer of specialized knowledge and experiences. These Committees now have more than 200 associate members whose participation has been decisive in enabling the Committees to fulfill their mandates.

Strengthening of the coordination among subregional, regional and international organizations

Many organizations have established programs to develop information and communications technologies (ICTs). In order to be able to maintain its pre-eminent role in the Americas, CITELE established closer associations by concluding cooperation agreements. As of the present time, it has signed agreements with the following: AHCIET, ALACEL, CEPT, ETSI, ASET, Committee T1 (US), TIA (US), C/LAA (US), RCC (Russian Federation and other member States of the CEI) and the UPAEP. These agreements will improve coordination with other telecommunications organizations for purposes of developing and setting in motion effective and sustainable programs. They also do much to reduce duplication of efforts.

Increase in the use of new modes of training in telecommunications

A number of important decisions have been taken to improve and increase training. The increase in the number of regulatory agencies in the member States has made training assistance to these agencies a priority activity for CITELE. Distance learning was introduced as one of CITELE's training vehicles in 2002. CITELE sponsored courses on regulation of new IP services and applications, security on public networks, network interconnections and a seminar on security on public networks, its technical and management issues. A total of 213 fellowships were offered using the fellowships budget for 2001 and 2002.

Improving CITELE procedures

A number of measures have been taken to improve CITELE procedures. One of the most visible is that practically all CITELE documents are now available online at its online electronic forum. This cuts down on the use of paper, as meetings are held with wireless access to documents. The investments made in improving the operating methods and mechanisms significantly enhanced the quality of CITELE's services, thereby serving to increase participation in its activities.

Third Assembly of CITELE

The Third Assembly of CITELE was held in Washington, D.C., August 12 through 16, 2002. Its results featured the restructuring to more clearly define the functions and priorities of the respective committees, updating the strategic plan and work program, and election of CITELE's new officers.

CITEL will thus continue to serve as a permanent forum and mechanism for coordinating the activities of all those interested and involved in shaping telecommunications policies and ICT, including international, regional and subregional organizations, the private sector and other sector-related organizations.

In addition to those already mentioned elsewhere in this report, the following are some of the topics discussed during the Assembly:

- Approval of a Protocol to the Inter-American Convention on the International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP), whereby bearers of amateur radio permits in the member countries of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) that become States parties to the Protocol are granted the same rights and privileges that IARP permit holders in the CITEL member States enjoy. This will simplify procedures for using these services, which are of such critical importance, particularly in emergency situations.
- Special mention was made of the progress made on implementation of the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) on Conformity Assessment of Telecommunications Equipment, to have truly integrated telecommunications in the Americas. A special effort was requested to ensure that the Caribbean and Central American States are apprised of the requirements and advantages of participating in the MRA.
- Updating the Blue Book on Telecommunications Policies for the Americas, with particular attention to the specific needs and requirements of the Central American and Caribbean countries. The Blue Book has been an invaluable tool to regulators in the region, since it covers the sector's priorities, which include the following: spectrum administration; interconnection; economic models for universal service; administrative procedures; and convergence of services and Internet.

The Declaration of Washington recognized the central role that CITEL has played and agreed to continue consolidating and expanding CITEL's capabilities so that it can fully respond to the commitments undertaken by the Heads of State at the Summit of the Americas, since communications and telecommunications technologies and connectivity are priority elements in the region's sustainable development.

Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL (COM/CITEL)

The Permanent Executive Committee is CITEL's executive body and meets once each year. At the 2002 meeting, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, December 9 through 12, COM/CITEL put the finishing touches on the Agenda for Connectivity in the Americas and the Plan of Action of Quito. These documents were then sent to the OAS Executive Secretariat for the Summit Process for implementation. When putting together their work programs, CITEL and its Permanent Consultative Committees will examine ways of helping to implement the Agenda for Connectivity.

Preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) are now at a critical phase, as the meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in the Dominican Republic, January 29 through 31, 2003. COM/CITEL invited the OAS Secretary General to convey to the meeting a series of telecommunications-related objectives, including the following: the need to modernize the telecommunications infrastructure and greater access to telecommunications services through policies that promote universal access, creating capabilities to cultivate the human resources needed to support connectivity, and creation of a cyber security culture to protect the telecommunications infrastructure.

The Common Inter-American Proposals were developed within COM/CITEL and then presented to the World Telecommunications Development Conference in 2002 and the ITU's 2002 Conference of Plenipotentiaries. The majority were adopted. CITEL thus made certain that the voice of the Americas was heard loud and clear in the International Telecommunications Union's world forum.

A Connectivity Initiatives Management Group was also established to interact with the ITU/BDT by way of the ITU's Regional Office, and with other organizations interested in implementing projects based on these initiatives. This group will identify projects and foster mechanisms for cooperating with international and regional financial organizations, partnering with the private sector and other interested entities. The idea is to enable the identified projects to materialize by coordinating measures for their implementation.

Permanent Consultative Committee I (CCP.I)

Permanent Consultative Committee I was reorganized on the occasion of CITEL's Third Assembly. CCP.I (Telecommunications Standardization) to act as a technical advisory body within the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission with respect to telecommunications equipment certification processes, tariff principles and standards coordination for telecommunications networks and services to ensure the interoperability of such networks and services within the region.

The strategy of the CCP.I will be to ensure that CITEL is a pre-eminent body in coordinating telecommunications standards in the region, responding to market demand and keeping pace with technological evolution. Based on the mandate received from CITEL's Third Assembly, the Committee organized its work to be able to focus its attention on the following areas: standards coordination; advanced network technology and services; certification processes and implementation of the MRA; economic issues and tariff principles; preparations for the World Conference on International Telecommunications, and preparations for the ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly.

During this period, important progress was made toward implementation of the Mutual Recognition Agreement for Telecommunication Equipment (MRA), publication of the book on Tele-education in the Americas, and development of the handbook on "Information Infrastructure in the Americas," which will contain the inter-American strategies and policies for development in the region.

Permanent Consultative Committee II (CCP.II)

Prior to the Third Assembly of CITEL, Permanent Consultative Committee II was the technical advisory body on standards, planning, operation and technical assistance related to Broadcasting, in its various modalities. At CITEL's Third Assembly, the former Permanent Consultative Committee II was merged with Permanent Consultative Committee III. The new committee –Radiocommunication including Broadcasting- will serve as technical advisory body within CITEL with respect to the coordination and harmonization of standards related to spectrum use and the planning and efficient use of the radio frequency spectrum and satellite orbits for radiocommunication services, including broadcasting.

The Committee's representation at other forums and related organizations has been instrumental in publicizing its work more widely. Interregional cooperation, principally in the Asian Pacific and European regions (APT and CEPT), is an important component that will enrich the Committee's activities. One of the key topics is the preparations for the ITU's 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference. The inter-American viewpoints and proposals are currently being consolidated so that they can be submitted to the ITU on time. Preparation of the proposals will be completed in February 2003.

In 2002, CITEL was able to finalize the analysis of the various scenarios and frequency allocations, approving a recommendation on frequency allocations for IMT-2000 for the 806 to 960 MHz, 1710 to 2025 MHz, and 2110 to 220 MHz bands.

The Third Summit of the Americas asked CITEL to examine the possibility of simplifying procedures to apply for licensing to provide satellite-based telecommunications services. A report is in the works on the procedures for obtaining VSAT licenses in the Americas, in order to pinpoint the common procedures used within the region that could help the administrations simplify their procedures for obtaining licenses for ground stations.

At CITEL's web page (<http://www.citel.oas.org>), the program giving the member States' present frequency allocation in the 137 MHz to 400 MHz is fully operational and freely accessible. As of the date of preparation of this report, the database included information on frequency allocations for 32 of the 34 OAS member States. For reference purposes, it also features the Table of Frequency Allocations (International Table) and the European Table of Frequency Allocations.

Of particular note is the highly technical nature of the papers presented at the forum of Standards in Digital Radiobroadcasting, held in Fortaleza, Brazil in July 2002. The forum featured sessions on Digital Sound Broadcasting (DSB) and Digital Television. Detailed presentations were given on the three global-scale digital systems.

INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM

Created by the General Assembly [AG/RES. 1650 (XXIX-O/99)], the purpose of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism is to cultivate cooperation to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorist acts and activities. It is made up of the competent national authorities of all the member states. The Committee conducts its work on the basis of international conventions on this subject, the principles and objectives of the Lima Declaration to Prevent, Combat and Eliminate Terrorism, the Lima Plan of Action on Hemispheric Cooperation to Prevent, Combat, and Eliminate Terrorism and the Mar del Plata Commitment. It is headquartered at the OAS General Secretariat.

In 2002, the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) started to implement the decisions adopted at its first and second regular sessions, held in Miami and Washington, respectively.

Subsequent to the second regular session held in January 2002, CICTE established an Executive Secretariat, thanks to an offer from El Salvador, the United States, and Uruguay to send professional personnel to work permanently on the planned activities. Seven member States (Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Canada, Chile, El Salvador, Peru and the United States) and three permanent observer States (Italy, Turkey and the United Kingdom) made generous contributions of funds and materials totaling US\$387,399.30, to help start up the Secretariat's initial program and activities.

CICTE's recommendations on financial and border controls were incorporated into the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, signed thus far by 33 of the Organization's 34 member countries. The member States acted swiftly and in concert in arriving at agreement on that highly complex instrument. That fact, combined with its very comprehensive and practical nature, make the Convention a milestone for the Hemisphere and for the worldwide campaign against terrorism.

The Convention provides a legal framework that the signatory States can use to update their domestic legal systems to reflect the changing face of terrorism. In particular, the establishment of national financial intelligence units will give the member States new tools with which to fight money laundering and terrorism financing. The training, sharing of information and technical cooperation provided for in the Convention will improve the region's capacity to take on the wide range of new and old challenges that terrorism poses. Improving border controls will be helpful in the campaigns against drug and weapons traffickers, and terrorists as well. Sharing information can help prevent terrorist acts and be useful to authorities in investigating and prosecuting terrorists and those who aid and abet them. Finally, the Convention offers the member States new means to improve reciprocal legal assistance, especially by denying those accused of terrorism the exemption for a political crime.

CICTE's third regular meeting was held in San Salvador in January. There, the member States confirmed their political commitment to the fight against terrorism, under the principles and purposes of the United Nations and OAS Charters, with respect for human rights and for the commitments undertaken with the international conventions to fight terrorism. The meeting also underscored the need to further build up mutual confidence among the States and to promote contacts between national offices specializing in anti-terrorism. More coordination or a strategic alliance was recommended among CICAD, CICTE, and the CIFTA Convention Advisory Group. The Declaration of San Salvador is particularly important, which states the following:

- Terrorism constitutes a serious threat to international peace and security, and the freedom, democracy and economic and social development of the States.

- Terrorism is often linked to illicit drug trafficking, illicit arms trafficking, and other forms of transnational organized crime.
- The member States are committed to continuing to strengthen their cooperation in the framework of CICTE and to strengthen and support CICTE and its Secretariat.
- The member States emphatically condemn terrorism inasmuch as it attacks democracy, hinders the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, destabilizes and undermines the foundations of society, and seriously affects economic and social development in the states of the region.

The CICTE Work Plan, approved in El Salvador, makes provision for programs in two general areas: information sharing and training. It also pinpoints two crucial issues: strengthening safeguards against fundraising intended to benefit terrorist activities and against money transfers to and from terrorists, and better control over the persons and materials crossing national borders. The Secretariat has launched programs in all these areas.

CICTE will help member States use this instrument to maximum advantage through effective laws and regulations and technical training. Prominent among the initiatives that the Secretariat of CICTE is currently putting together are the following: terrorist typologies and methods, a basic course conducted in partnership with the Gendarmería Nacional Argentina and the Inter-American Defense Board and offered and given online; a policy in practice exercise involving a terrorist incident with radiological material in the Caribbean, formulated jointly with the Pan American Health Organization; a workshop on key issues in the implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism; researching the financing of terrorism, for the financial intelligence units, conducted in cooperation with CICAD; “best practices” in combating terrorism financing, with the emphasis on practices developed in countries with a civil law system; and, finally, an introduction to cyber-security, conducted in cooperation with the United States Department of State.

CICTE’s Web page is today a dynamic hub for sharing information on antiterrorism in the hemisphere. The page receives an average of 16,000 visits per month and more than 500 downloads of information. The antiterrorism database is an ever-expanding source of expert information, current legislation and information on contacts, with 90 registered users. The goal is to have 400 by year’s end. *Informe* is a monthly online newsletter containing information on the fight against terrorism in the Hemisphere. Started in November 2002, it now has over 300 subscribers.

INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

The Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) was created by the General Assembly through resolution AG/RES. 1682 (XXIX-O/99), to deal with natural disaster-related issues and to serve as the OAS' main forum for analyzing this topic, in coordination with the competent national organizations. It is chaired by the OAS Secretary General and composed of the Chairman of the Permanent Council, the Assistant Secretary General, the President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Director General of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Secretary General of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI)/Director General of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development.

The IACNDR has been working on a strategic plan to reduce vulnerability, manage hazardous situations and respond to disasters. A technical group of experts composed of Committee members has been meeting since August 2002 to put together a plan. The plan is expected to be ready in time to present it to the Permanent Council for consideration prior to the next regular session of the General Assembly. The Committee also prepared recommendations to be presented to the Special Conference on Hemispheric Security, which will be held in Mexico in May 2003.

Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM)

During the period covered in this report, the OAS General Secretariat has made symbolic financial contributions to help respond to disasters in the following member States:

Bolivia (March)	\$20,000
Uruguay (March)	\$10,000
Ecuador (May)	\$10,000
Costa Rica (May)	\$20,000
Haiti (May)	\$20,000
Jamaica (June)	\$15,000
Peru (July)	\$20,000
Venezuela (August)	\$20,000

JUSTICE STUDIES CENTER OF THE AMERICAS

In fulfillment of the mandates set forth in the Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas and the recommendations adopted at the Meetings of the Ministers of Justice or Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas, the Justice Studies Center of the Americas was established by the General Assembly [AG/RES. 1 (XXVI-E/99)] as an intergovernmental entity with technical and operational autonomy. Its objectives are to help strengthen human resources, facilitate the exchange of information and other forms of technical cooperation, and support reform and modernization of justice systems in the region.

Institutional development

In 2002, the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) finalized its formal establishment in Chile, when the Chilean Parliament ratified the Headquarters Agreement. The latter took effect on September 8.

JSCA headquarters in Santiago, Chile, was the venue for the seventh meeting of the Board of Directors, October 17 and 18. Attending were Board members Douglass Cassel (Chairman), Federico Callizo (Vice Chairman), Soledad Alvear, Karl Hudson Phillips, Mónica Nagel and Board member-elect George Thompson. The Activities Report presented by the Executive Director and the programming for the coming year were approved.

On the occasion of the IV Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA IV), held in Trinidad and Tobago, March 10 to 13, both the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the Executive Director spoke at the plenary session to present the Annual Activities Report 2002 and the Work Plan 2002. The attending delegations complimented both documents, which were formally approved. Under Chapter III, in the section titled "Improving the Administration of Justice," REMJA IV approved a resolution asking the Justice Studies Center of the Americas to put together a register of centers dedicated to alternative dispute-resolution methods. That register can be viewed at the CEJA Web site, www.cejamericas.org

Finally, at its thirty-second regular session, held in Bridgetown, Barbados, June 2 through 4, the General Assembly approved the JSCA Activities Report. A new member of the Center's Board of Directors, Mr. George Thompson of Canada, was elected by the Assembly, replacing Board member José Ovalle of Mexico. Mr. Karl Hudson Phillips of Trinidad and Tobago was re-elected to the Board.

Dissemination and contacts

The JSCA pursued its policy of entering into separate agreements with each institution representative of justice in the region. The number of agreements that JSCA signed in 2002 doubled, as it signed 18 new agreements. The list of agreements signed by the JSCA can be viewed at the Web page.

In 2002, the JSCA also received a formal request for associate membership from the Instituto Mexicano para la Justicia (IMEJ), a nongovernmental organization in Mexico. The Board of Directors approved this request at its VII Meeting.

Activities and results

The following is a list of the projects and their respective results and impacts. They are grouped on the basis of three objectives: i) generating and distributing instruments that improve the information available on justice in the Americas; ii) strengthening the cooperation and exchange of experiences among the key

actors in the justice sector at the regional level, and iii) conducting in-depth studies of the justice systems and strengthening innovative ideas in the discussion of judicial reforms.

Generating and disseminating instruments that improve the information available on justice in the Americas

A fundamental part of the JSCA's mission is to improve the information available on justice systems, both in terms of quality and accessibility. To accomplish this objective, a Virtual Information Center was created and can be accessed via the Web site. The Virtual Information Center has a number of specific instruments that gather and variously process information already produced by the public, private, national and regional member institutions in the justice area, as well as the findings of the JSCA-conducted studies. Because internet access in the region is still limited, the Virtual Center has print materials to complement its Web products.

In January, the JSCA's new site was placed on the Web and features general information about the JSCA, an agenda of activities; training and studies conducted by the JSCA; the judicial systems journal *Sistemas Judiciales*; a virtual library, and links.

In November, the first thematic module was added to the Web site, which is the Alternative Dispute-Resolution Center. At this Web page about MARC, a database for the documents and legislation that make up the MARC page is in operation. The Web page is in Spanish and English.

By late 2002, the JSCA's Virtual Information Center had 3,000 documents, reports, basic legislation and links on the justice systems of the 34 member countries. The Web site received over 110,000 visits, averaging 238 a day.

- Annual Report on Justice in the Americas

In 2002, the JSCA began producing the Annual Report on Justice in the Americas. A multidisciplinary team of professionals from various countries of the hemisphere have started to compile information on the justice sector in JSCA's 34 active member countries. A format was prepared with basic indicators on the following topics: a description of the judicial system and its structure; general statistics on the work and productivity of the institutions in the justice sector; innovations in the sector; public perception; findings of studies done on the sector during the period; and references and summaries of Web links to key institutions in the region and in each country.

This report will be introduced on the JSCA's Web site in early 2003; a bilingual edition will be released in print format.

- *Nexus* Newsletter

In 2002, 12 issues of the monthly newsletter *Nexus* were published, in Spanish and English. The newsletter already has 2650 subscribers and another 10,000 readers receive it by indirect distribution. The first Portuguese and French versions of *Nexus* were published in December. Special news bulletins have been added to provide more in-depth coverage of certain topics of particular interest in the region.

- *Sistemas Judiciales* journal

Since 2001, the JSCA has published the journal *Sistemas Judiciales* every six months. It contains articles and information on studies and the status of judicial reform in the Americas today. The journal's Board of Editors met for the first time in Washington on June 6, at OAS headquarters. The Board is composed

of distinguished experts from the region who are specialists in the theme of justice and judicial systems. The Board members' names appear at <http://www.cejamericas.org/>. Four issues of the journal have been published to date.

- Comparing judicial statistics and indicators

The JSCA has undertaken a research project on judicial statistics whose purpose is to produce a comprehensive system for data collection and processing, all in order to generate a special report of judicial statistics and indicators for the Americas. In 2002, a number of activities were carried out to accomplish this objective. They included a data validation meeting held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on March 22. The meeting was attended by 25 experts representing 7 countries and by various institutions like the IDB, the World Bank, the OAS, public ministries, judiciaries and civil society organizations with which the JSCA has concluded cooperation agreements. Data were compiled using the matrix developed by experts Santos Pastor and Liliana Maspons, coordinators of the project in Argentina and the Dominican Republic.

A preliminary version of the manual “*Cifrar y Descifrar*” was published on the Web site. This version was introduced at a number of events: the Annual Meeting of the Ibero-American Association of Public Ministries (AIMP), held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in November; the annual meeting of the Ibero-American Summit of Supreme Courts and Superior Courts, held in Cancun, Mexico, in November, and the seminar on Judicial Statistics, held in December in Mexico.

The JSCA has also been approached to cooperate in various projects on judicial information and indicators in Venezuela, with the AIMP Institute and with the Ibero-American Summit and Central American Isthmus Summit. In the latter case, it was to collaborate in a project for a judicial observatory. The Eastern Caribbean Jurisdiction has requested the JSCA's support in starting up a system to compile judicial statistics for that region.

Strengthening the cooperation and exchange of experiences among the key actors in the justice sector at the regional level

The JSCA's goal is to become a vehicle enabling the creation of a regional community interested or involved in judicial public policies, with solid inner nexuses and with a real capacity to influence the sector's development. To that end, it performed the following activities during the year:

- It became a formal founding partner, with full powers, of the Ibero-American Network of Judicial Schools. It also collaborated with the VII Ibero-American Summit of Presidents of Supreme Courts on preparation of the basic paper on the topic of legal assistance, which was presented at that meeting in November 2002.
- The JSCA is one of the institutions collaborating in the organization of the constitutive congress of the Inter-American Association of Public Defenders. At the regional meeting of public defender's offices, held this year in Costa Rica, the JSCA facilitated the participation of officials from the legal defense systems of the Eastern Caribbean and Dominica. The JSCA also organized working meetings with the top representatives of the public defender's offices present, unifying positions, sharing experiences and, above all, strengthening the ties between those institutions and the Center.
- It also participated in the Annual Meeting of the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors, held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in November. The presidency of the Association (Colombia)

and of the Association's Institute (Argentina) expressed their interest in working with the JSCA on statistics and training, a topic being evaluated in 2003.

- The JSCA launched the Network of the Justice Civil Society Organizations of the Americas, based on a project previously conducted by the World Bank. Our network is sponsored by the World Bank, the IDB and USAID, and it networks organizations in 22 countries of the region (and can be viewed at the JSCA Web page).
- To formalize the Network's creation, provide an opportunity for its members to meet one another and launch concrete activities, the JSCA convened the First Annual Meeting of the Network of Justice Civil Society Organizations of the Americas, in partnership with Ecuador's Esquel Foundation. The meeting was held in Quito, Ecuador, March 25 and 26. Ribeirão Preto, Brazil, was the venue of a partial meeting of the Network from May 14 through 17, during the First Latin American Forum on Political Crime: The Many Faces of Crime, organized by the Brazilian Institute of Criminal Sciences (IBCCRIM) and sponsored by the JSCA.
- It is important to note that the JSCA organized 18 events or courses, sponsored 6, was instrumental with another 12 and participated in the most important events conducted in the region.

Conducting in-depth studies of the justice systems and strengthening innovative ideas in the discussion of judicial reforms

- Follow-up study of reforms in criminal procedure

In 2001, the JSCA undertook a group of studies and activities designed to strengthen understanding about the way the criminal justice systems in the region function, in order to point up their strengths and weaknesses and publicize the results. These empirical studies were intended to complement the theoretical and conceptual approach to justice issues, in order to encourage pro-reform groups to critically assess the implementation processes and to revive the reforms' original objectives. The approach the studies have devised for dealing with justice issues is based on concrete problems and empirical data. The design of the method is a participatory effort. This method includes quantitative and qualitative components alike, such as observation of trials and interviews on the system's general operation.

In 2002, the first phase of studies was completed. These were studies on Chile, Costa Rica, Córdoba, Argentina, and Paraguay. National reports were prepared on each of these countries and then used as the source material for a report comparing the principal findings. That report appeared in issue No. 3 of the journal *Sistemas Judiciales*.

The second phase of the project was launched and involved similar studies on other countries (Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala and Venezuela) and a second study on Chile. In certain cases, the costs of these studies are borne by the local institutions responsible for them, under JSCA supervision. In Ecuador, the JSCA worked with the Esquel Foundation; in Venezuela with the consulting firm INVERTEC. Elsewhere, the JSCA finances the studies. The study in Guatemala is being conducted by the ICCPG, and in El Salvador by FESPAD.

In December, local reports corresponding to this second phase were received from all countries except Venezuela, whose report was delayed due to the internal problems that country is experiencing. The corresponding data validation seminars were held in Ecuador and El Salvador. Preparation of the report comparing the findings got underway, as did preparations for the international seminar where the findings will be presented.

Finally, inasmuch as the JSCA is heavily involved in the process of reforming the criminal justice system in Mexico, that country has decided to begin changes along lines similar to the changes already introduced in the vast majority of Latin American countries.

- Study on civil society's role in judicial reform

The JSCA participated in the regional project to survey the role of civil society organizations in judicial reforms in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, and Peru. Its job was to prepare the report on Chile. Accordingly, it interviewed some 50 civil society organizations committed to the juridical system. Its report was extensive and was discussed and validated at a seminar. The JSCA published a book with the findings of the research and the comparative report. This book and a separata in English and Spanish will be circulated in the countries of the region.

ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL

The Administrative Tribunal of the Organization of American States was created on April 22, 1971, by resolution AG/RES. 35 (I-O/71), which the General Assembly adopted at the ninth plenary session of its first regular session. Its function is to settle any disputes that may arise with staff members by reason of administrative decisions, including those relating to the Retirement and Pension Plan of the General Secretariat. It has six members, each of a different nationality and elected by the General Assembly in a personal capacity to a six-year term. Three judges sit at any given session. The Secretary of the Administrative Tribunal heads the Secretariat of the Tribunal, which is under the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs of the General Secretariat. The Secretary provides legal advisory services to the members of the Tribunal, oversees the statutory procedure that cases filed with the Tribunal must follow, and is in charge of the administrative business of the Tribunal and its Secretariat. The Secretary of the Tribunal also serves as a legal officer, under the general supervision of the Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs.

Mandates and recommendations from the General Assembly

At its thirty-second regular session, held in Bridgetown, Barbados, the General Assembly re-elected Dr. Nicholas J.O. Liverpool, of Dominica, as a Judge on the Administrative Tribunal. His term begins on January 1, 2003, and will end on December 31, 2008.

The term of Peru's Dr. Rosa Montalvo Cabrera as a Judge on the Administrative Tribunal will end on December 31, 2003. It will be up to the General Assembly at its thirty-third regular session, to elect the new Judge for the January 1, 2004-December 31, 2009 term from among the candidates nominated.

Activities conducted

The Secretariat of the Tribunal prepared all the documents the Tribunal produced, and continued preparing and publishing Tribunal-related information at the OAS' page on the Internet. At that site, basic information is available to anyone interested in learning about the Tribunal's administrative and jurisdictional functions. At the OAS page, the public can access the Statute and Rules of Procedure of the Tribunal, all judgments and decisions issued as of the date of this Report, in Spanish and English, the OAS Charter, the General Standards to govern the operations of the General Secretariat, the Staff Rules, other basic regulations of the Organization and general information about the Tribunal and its members. Persons wishing to contact the Tribunal by e-mail can do so directly from this page.

The Tribunal's Secretariat maintained contact and shared information and assistance with the Secretariats of the Administrative Tribunals of other international organizations, and with other organizations, entities and persons associated with the activities of the Tribunal and its Secretariat.

In performing his functions as a legal officer under the general supervision of the Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs, the Secretary of the Tribunal served as liaison between the General Secretariat and the Justice Studies Center of the Americas, offering legal and technical advisory assistance and responding to all the Center's inquiries.

The Secretary also served as a legal advisor at the most recent session of the General Assembly and for the Permanent Council's General Committee and Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs.

L Regular Session

The Secretariat of the Tribunal provided the technical and secretariat services needed to enable the Tribunal to hold its L Regular Session in October 2002. These services included all procedural matters involved when complaints were filed with the Tribunal; research, classifying, preparing and transmitting information on the cases the Tribunal had under consideration; communications between the President, the other members of the Tribunal and other interested parties; travel and accommodations arrangements for the members of the Tribunal; and assistance with the President's official activities.

The panel of judges for the L Regular Session was as follows: the President of the Tribunal, Dr. Nicholas J.O. Liverpool (Dominica), and judges Morton Sklar (United States) and Agustín Gordillo (Argentina). In Judgments Nos. 142 to 146 the Tribunal decided complaints No.276, Jaime Sosa vs. Secretary General; No. 277, Wyllie vs. Secretary General; No. 278, Meyer vs. Secretary General; and No. 279, Berly vs. Secretary General. In keeping with its Rules of Procedure, the Tribunal held three public hearings during which statements were taken from the parties, witnesses and experts and oral arguments were heard. The Secretariat sent each party and Tribunal member a copy of the decisions taken at this session.

At the L session, the Secretariat presented reports to the Tribunal concerning regulatory, budgetary and administrative matters pertinent to the operation of the Tribunal and its Secretariat.

PAN AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Established in 1962, the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) is a private, nonprofit, nongovernmental institution that works exclusively in Latin America and the Caribbean. It coordinates some of its activities with the OAS, under a Cooperation Agreement, concluded in 1982, to cooperate in cultural, scientific, educational, economic, and social development and in disaster relief. The Secretary General chairs the Foundation's Board of Trustees. Its Executive Director is John Sanbrailo.

2002 is the fortieth anniversary of the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF). The Foundation assists the General Secretariat in responding to countries that experience natural disasters. It ships medical equipment to health institutions and tools to vocational education centers, creates jobs and income through pioneering programs with small and microenterprise in urban and rural areas, channels remittances from immigrants in the United States into community development in the native countries, and encourages corporate social investment and democracy in the Hemisphere.

During the period covered in this report, the health services and tools for education programs sent donations valued at \$1,700,000 to Peru, Haiti, Jamaica, Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay, Colombia, Venezuela and the Dominican Republic. The donated medical equipment made it possible to establish or reinforce health services in marginal communities and clinics serving low-income populations. Reacting to the financial crisis that hit Uruguay, the PADF and Chevron-Texaco teamed up to make a sizeable donation to hospitals run by that country's Ministry of Health. The tools program, for its part, is working with representatives of firms interested in expanding their donations to reach new vocational education institutions and promoting job training to enable young people to find jobs.

With funding from USAID, the PADF is conducting a program in Colombia to create jobs and income for families displaced by the violence. As of the date of this report, 30,825 sustainable jobs had been created, benefiting over 150,000 people in 16 departments and 110 municipalities in the country. Of particular significance is the degree of cooperation that the Colombian Government secured through the Social Solidarity Network and the involvement of the international private sector (Chevron-Texaco, Occidental Petroleum, Citibank, Bank Boston, British Petroleum) and domestic private sector (Indufrial, Grupo Bavaria, Carulla-Vivero, Olímpica, and the Mario Santo Domingo and Colombia Presente foundations) in the program's activities. Similarly, the PADF is contributing to the effort to eliminate illegal crops through a new alternative development project in northwestern Antioquía and south of Bolívar.

The PADF has launched an innovative project for "Empowering Latin American and Caribbean Immigrants in the United States to Make Them Protagonists of Their Native Countries' Development," through a Community Remittances Program. The Foundation is working with Haitian, Salvadoran and Mexican immigrant groups interested in earmarking a portion of their remittances to help execute economic-social development projects in their home communities. Haiti's Unibank, the Haitian Diaspora on the pilot market in New York and the PADF have concluded an agreement whereby the bank will earmark one dollar for every remittance sent to finance a community development project in Haiti.

With funding from USAID, the PADF continues carrying out its Hillside Farming Program in Haiti, which promotes sustainable production and increases rural incomes by sharing technology and developing marketing channels. The program enables farmers from the community to create their own businesses, improve output and gain access to local and export markets. In late 2002, the PADF launched its new program, CREER, designed to recondition rural infrastructure and irrigation systems and funded by the United States Department of Agriculture by monetizing grain staples. Furthermore, they continue the

Post-Hurricane Georges Rebuilding program to train rural communities with a view to making them less vulnerable to natural disasters and to reducing the toll that such disasters take.

The success achieved in Honduras with the Aguán River Early Flood Warning project, implemented with the General Secretariat's Unit for Sustainable Development and Environment during the previous period, made it possible to secure funding to extend the results to another forty municipalities in the northern part of the country that are frequently hit by the rains. This program started up its activities in the communities of La Lima and El Progreso.

The PADF program in Cuba is for institution-building, targeting the country's nongovernmental organizations, libraries and civil society and providing them with technical information, materials, publications, and specialized visits.

In the area of corporate social investment, Caterpillar and the PADF teamed up to send Peru a sizeable donation of equipment with which to train mining engineers. Funding from the Altria Group made it possible to continue programs in literacy, Third Age and AIDS in Brazil. It also helped keep 150 soup kitchens in operation, which feed 35,000 children and female heads of household in Argentina, and to complete the work in participatory strategic planning and job creation in four Argentine provinces.

For 2003, the Foundation is exploring the possibility of starting up new projects in Bolivia and Peru and will extend its activities in Honduras, El Salvador and in Central America in general. The PADF will also continue the program channeling remittances into economic development, being conducted with Haitian, Salvadoran, Mexican immigrant associations and counterpart institutions in the respective countries.

BOARD OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 123, adopted on April 14, 1973, and Permanent Council resolution CP/RES. 124 of June 10, 1975, the Board of External Auditors is responsible for the external auditing of the General Secretariat's accounts. The Board launched its activities in March 1976, and adopted detailed rules and procedures for discharging its duties and responsibilities in accordance with the relevant decisions of the General Assembly and Permanent Council. The Board is made up of three members elected by the General Assembly.

The Board of External Auditors held its annual meeting April 1 through 5, 2002, to prepare its report on the external audit of the accounts and financial statements of the OAS, pursuant to Article 129 of the General Standards.

On April 5, 2002, the Board presented its observations in the document Report to the OAS Permanent Council: Audit of Accounts and Financial Statements, December 31, 2001 and 2000 (OEA/Ser.S JAE/doc.32/02). The report is divided into four sections: a) comments and recommendations for improving accounting-related procedures and internal controls; b) financial statements of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States; c) Financial Statements of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development and the Foundation for the Americas; d) Financial statements of other agencies and entities related to the Organization of American States.

Based on reports issued by Arthur Anderson, LLP, a firm of independent auditors, the financial statements for the audited entities tally with the General Secretariat's books, records, documents and vouchers.

Specifically, the Board certified that the independent auditors had issued unqualified ("clean") reports, which is the best possible audit result, with regard to the following 2001 financial statements: OAS Regular Fund and Specific Funds; Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development; Foundation for the Americas; Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund; the Rowe Commemorative Fund; the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy; the Retirement and Pension Fund; the Inter-American Defense Board Fund; the Medical Benefits Trust Fund, and the project on Planning for Adaptation to Global Climate Change.

The Board's report also contains a number of recommendations on how to improve procedures and internal controls in the OAS, both at headquarters and in the Secretariat's offices in the member States.

INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD

Established in 1942 to study and recommend measures for the Hemisphere's defense, the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) is the world's oldest multilateral military organization. It promotes peace and security in the Hemisphere, while also building confidence among the parties through military cooperative relations and partnership. The Board promotes cooperative security interests in the Western Hemisphere. It is active in such areas as mine clearing for humanitarian purposes and confidence-building measures that are directly supportive of the goals of the OAS and the Ministers of Defense. It oversees an advanced academic program of studies in security and defense, given at the Inter-American Defense College.

For the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) and the Inter-American Defense College (IADC), 2002 was a year of new challenges and changes. The IADB has stepped up its efforts to maximize member States' participation in its activities. For that reason, it has encouraged civilian participation in the active delegations to the IADB that do not have military attaches in Washington. With that, Antigua and Barbuda, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Costa Rica and more recently (last January) Canada became active members participating in our periodic assemblies and working committees.

The IADB has also increased its involvement in programs like Humanitarian Demining, Natural Disaster Preparedness and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures. It has also furthered work on issues of interest in the area of partnership for hemispheric security. International Staff personnel providing technical assistance with the mine-clearing in Central America attended the ceremony marking the conclusion and certification of the demining work in Costa Rica. With that, the Humanitarian Demining operations in Costa Rica formally ended in December 2002, making it the first of the four nations of the region being assisted by the OAS/IADB Humanitarian Demining Mission to be officially declared a landmine-free area. Operations continue in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In support of the OAS' Humanitarian Demining Operations in Honduras, the IADB has introduced and coordinated the use of mechanized mine-clearing equipment from the United States government, to assist that country with execution of the project. The IADB coordinated and supervised training for mine-clearers and supervisors in Ecuador and Peru. It has also provided international monitoring services to Peru for start-up of its national mine-clearing program. The IADB is steering, supporting and coordinating 30 international supervisors and monitors in Central and South America, to assist with the OAS Humanitarian Demining Operations on behalf of the region's population.

The Staff of the Board presented the Assembly of the Committee on Hemispheric Security with a Security Study on Prior Planning for National Defense of the Transport of Nuclear Waste through the Caribbean Sea and a paper on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Other Regions of the World. It also presented the following reports to the Assembly of Delegates: studies on Human Security, the consequences of a possible United States attack on Iraq for the countries of the Hemisphere; and an exposition on strategic assessment. The Staff also presented the study done on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Other Regions of the World at the Meeting of Experts on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, held in Miami, Florida. The IADB continues to support the efforts of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CITCE) by detailing 3 military officers to organize and collaborate on an Online Distance Learning course on Global Terrorism. Early this year, the Chairman of the IADB presented the ten recommendations of the IADB Working Group on Modernization and Transformation to the Chairman of the Working Group of the Committee on Hemispheric Security (OAS).

In September, the Inter-American Defense College convoked its first Education Board. The Board, composed of an international group of seven academic experts from the hemisphere, did a thorough evaluation of the College, including the curriculum, its directorial and support staff, and the enrollment requirements. The Board made recommendations in each of these areas, laying the foundation to build the College's first Strategic Plan. As part of the College's modernization program, it conducted seminars on disaster relief and conflict resolution. Participation increased to include the 34 member States of the OAS; the participation of civilians and police officers also rose. As a result, a total of 92 participants representing 31 member countries of the OAS were part of the College's regular course in the four seminars during the period. The Distance Learning program was made available, cost free, to security and defense specialists the world over. Thus far, 800 have completed courses and 15 academic cooperation agreements have been signed with top-tier civilian, military and police institutes and universities. These programs buttress the OAS' effort in Education for Peace.

Both the IADB and the IADC received visits from distinguished groups, institutions and individuals. Prominent here were the visits from the Command Course and Staff of Colombia's War College and from El Salvador's School of Advanced Strategic Studies. There were visits from notables like Mrs. Jeannette Madriz Sotillo, President of the Andean Parliament, and her entourage; legal advisors from Uruguay's Defense Ministry; Mr. José Adán Guerra Pastora, Nicaragua's Minister of Defense; General Álvaro Méndez Estrada, Guatemala's Defense Minister; Mr. Roy Chaderton Matos, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela; Dr. Michelle Bachelet, Chile's Minister of Defense, who is a graduate of the College; and the recent visit by the Honorable Lucio Gutiérrez, President of Ecuador, who is also a graduate of that institute of advanced military studies.

INTER-AMERICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights is an autonomous judicial institution of the OAS whose purpose is to apply and interpret the American Convention on Human Rights. The Court has both contentious and advisory jurisdiction. It is made up of seven jurists, elected in a personal capacity by the States Parties to the American Convention, during the General Assembly of the Organization of American States.

In the period under review in this report, the judges on the Court were the following, in order of precedence: Antônio A. Cançado Trindade (Brazil), President; Alirio Abreu Burelli (Venezuela), Vice President; Máximo Pacheco Gómez (Chile); Hernán Salgado Pesantes (Ecuador); Oliver Jackman (Barbados); Sergio García Ramírez (Mexico); and Carlos Vicente de Roux Rengifo (Colombia). The Secretary of the Court is Manuel E. Ventura Robles (Costa Rica); the Deputy Secretary is Pablo Saavedra Alessandri (Chile).

Contentious cases filed with the Court and provisional measures/advisory opinions requested of it

In 2002, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights filed the following cases with the Court: *Maritza Urrutia* against Guatemala, *Gómez Paquiyauri* against Peru, the *Juvenile Detention Center and Ricardo Canese* against Paraguay, *Lori Berenson* against Peru, the “*Plan de Sánchez Massacre*” case against Guatemala, and the *Moiwana Community* case against Suriname. It also sought provisional measures in the cases of the *Urso Branco Prison* concerning Brazil, the *Mayagna (Sumo) Awas Tingni Community* involving Nicaragua, *Helen Mack et al.* and *Bámaca Velásquez* involving Guatemala, and *Liliana Ortega et al.*, *Luis Uzcátegui* and *Luisiana Ríos et al.* involving Venezuela. The United States of Mexico also submitted a new advisory opinion request (OC-18) seeking the Court’s interpretation of various treaties on the protection of human rights in the American States in relation to the denial of the enjoyment and exercise of certain labor rights and their compatibility with the American States’ obligation to ensure the principles of juridical equality, nondiscrimination, and equal and effective protection under the law, recognized in international instruments on the protection of the human rights of migrant workers.

Sessions

In the period covered by this report, the Court held four sessions where it discussed the following matters:

At its fifty-fourth regular session, held February 18 through March 1, 2002, the Court delivered two judgments on reparations in the *Bámaca Velásquez v. Guatemala* case and *Trujillo Oroza v. Bolivia*, as well as a decision on the provisional measures requested in the *Gallardo Rodríguez* case against the United States of Mexico. The Court also held a public hearing in the *Hilaire, Constantine and Benjamín et al. v. Trinidad and Tobago* (Merits and Eventual Reparations) case.

At its fifty-fifth regular session, June 6 to 21, 2002, the Court delivered judgments in the following cases: *Hilaire, Constantine and Benjamín et al. v. Trinidad and Tobago* (Merits and Reparations), the “*19 Comerciantes*” *Case v. Colombia* (Preliminary Objections), *Durand and Ugarte v. Peru* (Compliance with Judgment) and *Baena Ricardo et al. v. Panama* (Compliance with Judgment), as well as decisions on the provisional measures requested in the following cases: *Paz de San José de Apartadó Community v. Colombia* and *Urso Branco Prison v. Brazil*. The Court also held public hearings in the following cases: “*19 Comerciantes*” (Preliminary Objections) and *Las Palmeras* (Reparations) against Colombia, *Cantos* (Merits and Eventual Reparations) against Argentina, and on Advisory Opinion *OC-17/02* requested by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

At its fifty-sixth regular session, held August 26 to September 7, 2002, the Court delivered its judgment on reparations in the *El Caracazo* case against Venezuela, and Advisory Opinion *OC-17/02*. It also adopted decisions on the provisional measures requested in the following cases: *Urso Branco Prison v. Brazil*, *Helen Mack et al. v. Guatemala*, "*La Nación*" *Newspaper v. Costa Rica*, *James et al. v. Trinidad and Tobago*, and *Mayagna (Sumo) Awas Tingni Community v. Nicaragua*. The Court also held a public hearing on the *Five Pensioners Case v. Peru* (Merits and Eventual Reparations). Finally, the Court held a meeting with senators from Canada's Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights and with members of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

At its fifty-seventh regular session, held November 18 through 30, 2002, the Court delivered judgments in the following cases: *Las Palmeras v. Colombia* (Reparations) and *Cantos v. Argentina* (Merits and Reparations). It also adopted decisions on provisional measures in the following cases: *Liliana Ortega et al.*, *Luis Uzcátegui and Luisiana Ríos et al.*, all cases against Venezuela. Decisions were also adopted on compliance with judgments in the following cases: *El Amparo*, *Garrido and Baigorria*, *Loayza Tamayo*, *Neira Alegría et al.*, "*The Last Temptation of Christ*" (*Olmedo Bustos et al.*), *Benavides Cevallos*, *Caballero Delgado and Santana*, *Castillo Páez*, *Blake*, *Baena Ricardo et al.*, *Barrios Altos* and *Durand and Ugarte*. The Court also issued a decision on fulfillment of the provisional measures in the case of "*La Nación*" *Newspaper v. Costa Rica*.

At the four sessions described above, the Court considered various procedures in the matters pending before it and examined a number of reports submitted by the Commission and by States in which provisional measures have been adopted. The Tribunal also examined various reports presented by the Commission, the States, and the victims or their representatives in cases in the compliance with judgment phase. It also discussed a number of administrative matters.

Other activities

In the period this report covers, the Court was honored to receive visits from the following distinguished figures: the President of Uruguay, the Honorable Jorge Luis Batlle Ibáñez; the President of Peru, the Honorable Alejandro Toledo Manrique; the President of Chile, the Honorable Ricardo Lagos Escobar; the President of the United States of Mexico, the Honorable Vicente Fox Quesada; the President of Costa Rica, the Honorable Abel Pacheco de la Espriella; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela, His Excellency Luis Alfonso Dávila García; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, His Excellency Didier Operti Badán; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Her Excellency María Soledad Alvear Valenzuela; the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the United States of Mexico, His Excellency Jorge G. Castañeda; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, His Excellency Roberto Tovar Faja; the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Dr. Osmar Chofi; the Deputy Minister of Justice of Peru, Dr. Pedro Cateriano Bellido; the President of Ecuador's Constitutional Court, the Honorable Marco Morales Tobar; and the Minister of the Superior Court of Brazil, Dr. Salvio de Figueiredo Teixeira. The Court also welcomed to its headquarters delegations from the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen, from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and from the United Nations Development Programme. A meeting was also held with senators from Canada's Standing Senate Human Rights Committee and with members of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.