ciety was established in May under the chairmanship of Bishop Rodolfo Quezada Toruño.

The General Assembly, in **resolution 49/137**, noted with satisfaction the signing of all those agreements, as well as the efforts of the Secretary-General, United Nations agencies and the international community in their support, and encouraged them to continue their assistance in favour of peace, national reconciliation, democracy and development. It called for speedy advancement in the process to achieve agreement on a firm and lasting peace, as close as possible to the 31 December deadline.

**Establishment of a human rights verification mission**

**Report of the Secretary-General.** In an August report, the Secretary-General stated that in order to assess the requirements for a human rights verification mission he had sent a preliminary mission to Guatemala and Mexico in April and May, which met with members of the Guatemala Government and Administration, URNG, representatives of various sectors of society and NGOs involved in the protection of human rights. The mission concluded that the human rights situation in Guatemala remained very troubling, and verification must be set in the context of wider efforts to end the armed conflict and promote the rule of law. While the deployment of a mission to verify implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights would make a decisive contribution to improving the situation, several complex issues required attention to ensure the success of a mission. These included establishment of guidelines and methods culturally appropriate in indigenous communities for the proper conduct of verification and institution-building, and suitable security arrangements, taking into account that deployment of the mission should take place prior to the signing of a final peace agreement. The preliminary mission recommended that the verification mission be headquartered in Guatemala City, and be adequately deployed throughout the country, with eight regional and five subregional offices. The mission would be headed by a Director and its office would be composed of branches for verification, institution-building, technical assistance and cooperation, an Office of Public Information and an Administration Division, all located in Guatemala City, and a coordinator in each of the regional offices. It was estimated that the mission would require 220 international staff, 60 civilian police and 10 military liaison officers.

The Secretary-General believed that the establishment of a United Nations mission would bolster the peace process and further strengthen confidence in the agreements reached. He was encouraged by the response of the international community to the recent advances in the peace process, in particular the undertaking of donors to facilitate the financing of the implementation of the agreements. He therefore recommended that the General Assembly authorize, for an initial period of six months, the establishment of a United Nations human rights verification mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) and called on the international community to extend financial support on a voluntary basis for institution-building and cooperation projects in the area of human rights.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 19 September, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 48/267** without vote, establishing MINUGUA.

**Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/15 of 20 November 1990, 46/109 A of 17 December 1991, 47/118 of 18 December 1992 and, in particular, 48/161 of 20 December 1993, in which it requested the Secretary-General to continue to support the peace process in Guatemala,

Welcoming the resumption in January 1994, under the auspices of the Secretary-General, of the negotiations between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca, and the signing on 10 January 1994 of the Framework Agreement for the Resumption of the Negotiating Process between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca,

Noting that the parties decided in the Framework Agreement to request the United Nations to verify all agreements reached between them, and the support of the Secretary-General for that request,

Welcoming also the signing on 29 March 1994 of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and the Agreement on a Timetable for the Negotiation of a Firm and Lasting Peace in Guatemala,

Encouraged by the signing on 17 June 1994 of the Agreement on Resettlement of the Population Groups Up-rooted by the Armed Conflict and, on 23 June 1994, of the Agreement on the Establishment of the Commission to Clarify Past Human Rights Violations and Acts of Violence That Have Caused the Guatemalan Population to Suffer,

Commending the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca for the flexibility demonstrated during the negotiation of the above-mentioned agreements,

Taking note of the request of the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca, contained in the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights, that the United Nations establish at the earliest possible date a mission to verify the implementation of that Agreement even before the signature of the agreement on a firm and lasting peace,

Recognizing the efforts made by the Secretary-General and the Group of Friends of the Guatemalan peace pro-