the implementation of the peace agreements, inter alia, through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Guatemala Peace Process established by the Secretary-General:

7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit recommendations as soon as possible on how the structure and staffing of the Mission should be redesigned to enable the Mission to fulfill its new responsibilities after the signing of the agreement on a firm and lasting peace, and to keep the General Assembly fully informed of the implementation of the present resolution.

MINUGUA acceded to the authorities’ request that it use its good offices to secure a peaceful resolution of such conflicts. The parties fulfilled the commitments made in March to end offensive military action and counter-insurgency operations, with the result that there were no deaths in combat. Nevertheless, URNG propaganda activities, including the holding of political rallies at which some participants were armed, were challenged by some sectors, which criticized the Government for tolerating such actions. At the end of the reporting period, armed groups of ordinary criminals emerged, masquerading as guerrillas, who committed robberies, armed assaults and acts of extortion on farms on the southern coast, which prompted the Government to authorize the deployment of troops to reinforce civilian security forces in the area.

The public debate over human rights centred on the search for a delicate balance between the demands of peace, truth, justice and national reconciliation, with a view to influencing the agreement on the legal integration of URNG, which was signed on 12 December and ratified by Congress as the National Reconciliation Act. A number of human rights groups, led by the Alliance against Impunity, criticized the Act, fearing it would become a general amnesty for human rights violators. In that connection, MINUGUA underscored the importance of excluding from the extinction of liability violations which took place outside the framework of the internal armed conflict.

The independent expert of the UN Commission on Human Rights visited Guatemala in November and drew attention to weaknesses in the justice system and public security, as well as to the need to find lasting solutions to problems affecting economic and social rights. (For details of action by the Commission and its Subcommission, see PART TWO, Chapter I.)

During the second half of the year, the number of complaints admitted and violations verified declined by comparison to the first half and concerned for the most part the right to due process. Due to the gradual cessation of the armed conflict, the number of cases of impunity and violations of the rights to life, integrity and security of person declined, as well as violations attributable to the armed forces. There were no substantiated cases of enforced disappearances and the number of such complaints declined appreciably, leading the Mission to conclude that the practice was no longer occurring. Efforts were being made, with government assistance, albeit in a limited number of cases, to find the remains of past victims. Congress adopted protective measures for members of the judiciary at the end of