

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada continues to have major concerns about the human rights situation in Vietnam. Vietnam has come under scrutiny in the Official Development Assistance (ODA), human rights and democratic development review process and these considerations have been taken into account in the development of the ODA program. Canada's current position is to work directly and pro-actively with the government of Vietnam to support administrative and legal reform.

Canada continues to make regular high-level representations to Vietnamese authorities on appropriate occasions to encourage greater respect for human rights and about specific cases of interest. Human rights issues were raised by Prime Minister Chrétien during his visit to Vietnam in November 1994.

Canada has also continued to voice its concern about the human rights situation in Vietnam in relevant international fora. The most recent was in a statement made by Canada's representative to the Third Committee of the 49th UNGA on November 29, 1994, which, inter alia, called on the Government of Vietnam to release political dissidents and expressed Canada's grave concerns over the treatment of religious leaders in Vietnam.

The establishment by Canada of an Embassy in Hanoi has improved our ability to encourage greater respect for human rights, to discuss issues of concern on a more systematic basis and to monitor developments.