

could deteriorate into full-scale civil war. It is in the best interest of all democratic countries to prevent further violence from occurring and to see the abolishment of apartheid. We therefore urge the Canadian government to continue to press South Africa to end its racist regime. As an expression of our deep concern, B'nai Brith Canada is sending a mission to South Africa in early 1986.

Syria

There are still about 4,500 Jews living in Syria. This community is held hostage by the Syrian government and is denied even the most basic human rights. They are the only Jews in the world still forced to live in a medieval style ghetto. Anyone caught trying to escape is punished by death. These people are isolated from all others and live in constant fear for their lives. They are not allowed to practise freely their religion or their professions. In their homes they are subject to arbitrary searches, lootings, and beatings.

While Canada does not have a great deal of leverage with the Syrian government, it can make its abhorrence of the present situation known to the regime. Syria is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and this issue should be brought up by our representative at the United Nations. As the