

time, a very precise, technical specialization ... but also of one those universal themes that touches virtually every aspect of life. It is apartheid and torture, it is refugees and indigenous people, but it is also the way the world treats its women and young people.

Thus, we have diversified our efforts in this field over the past two years. And I can assure you that Canada has been far from passive, as the following points show:

- We have, as the media have noted, put the question of human rights among the major issues raised in high-level visits abroad.
- We have been vigorous, even outspoken, in emphasizing human rights questions and programs at the United Nations.
- We have shown consistent leadership in supporting human rights in all parts of the world.

And our clearcut policy has been expressed through decisive actions.

One small, specific example: a year ago, Mr. Clark took the unprecedented initiative of creating a one million dollar fund to assist the families of detainees in South Africa - and I am pleased to report that I have since renewed this for another year, and increased the amount by fifty per cent.

Another example, quite different in nature and scope ... Development assistance is linked in many ways to human rights - but it's a subtle connection that creates many dilemmas. I don't think Canadians want to indulge in self-righteousness by cutting off aid to countries where human rights are abused, at the expense of the very people whose rights are abused. But we have taken a very major initiative in another direction altogether, to redress ancient wrongs. The Canadian International Development Agency has become perhaps the first aid agency to adopt a full set of policies and procedures to give due attention to the role of women in the development of societies. We want to make very sure that women are agents as well as beneficiaries of development.

Where do we go next? This seems a relatively promising era for human rights, with substantial progress in Latin America and glimmers of hope even in unlikely parts of the world. It's a good time for consultation, and this Government has more than a token interest in what you think - is, in fact, eager to hear the advice of non-governmental organizations, and to work with you in creative cooperation.

You are all familiar with the land-mark work of the United Nations and other organizations in framing standards, instituting promotional programs and establishing machinery at the multilateral level. Canada supports this work. And a lot must still be done in fields as important as minority rights, the rights of indigenous peoples, and the right to promote human rights. But there is a serious gap here - a gap between the accomplishments of multilateral organizations in identifying violations of human rights, and their ability to do something about it. They haven't been able to build the institutional structures that would ensure that rights will be respected. I speak particularly of the experiences of countries now emerging from difficult, even catastrophic,