

Other countries whose human rights records were criticized in the House of Commons included Burma, Burundi, Chile, Indonesia (East Timor), Iraq (Kurds), Pakistan (Ahmadis), and Zimbabwe.<sup>43</sup> On 13 September 1988, Liberal Member Roland de Corneille stated:

There is confusion on the part of Canadians who ask how it is that we are giving assistance to a Government like that of Haiti when it is thoroughly repressing its people...we must look at what is happening in Burundi because of threatened genocide, not only threatened but, in fact, genocide of the Hutu tribe and majority of the people by a minority repressive regime.... While it is correct to criticize the policies of the Soviet Union, Chile and so on in terms of their failure to live up to the idea of human rights, brutal genocide and the massacre of tens of thousands of people is going on elsewhere.... The same thing could be said about the aboriginal people in East Timor and in Irian Jaya. The oppression by Indonesia of those people and the genocide which has taken place over many years is again another example of brutal murder and slaughter on a wholesale scale.... Yet Indonesia receives international development assistance from Canada.<sup>44</sup>

In September 1988, parliamentary debate focussed on the establishment of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development (Bill C-147). Although the House generally agreed with the main thrust of the Bill, several members of parliament expressed some reservations on specific issues pertaining to the Centre. On 13 September 1988, NDP Member Howard McCurdy sounded the following concerns about the Centre's "terms of reference":

...while the Bill attends...to a kind of definition by saying that for the purpose of this Act the International Bill of Rights will constitute the reference and source for adjudicating what constitutes human rights, it fails to deal with what constitutes democracy and democratic development.... One of the concerns...is that Canada seeks to enhance human rights and democracy by a means which would not impose on other nations our own institutions and values.... What we want, I think, is to be able to communicate the ideal of democratic values which are common to the Canadian people.... I think Canada must reflect internationally--not by imposing its institutions or rigid definitions on other nations--a kind of Canadian consensus of the values underlying democracy and to apply criteria developed from those values in distributing aid.<sup>45</sup>

43 See *Commons Debates*, 13 September 1988, pp. 19179, 19183; 20 September 1988, p. 19431; 16 December 1988, p. 138; 14 April 1989, p. 506; 16 May 1989, p. 1786; and 24 May 1989, p. 2085.

44 *Commons Debates*, 13 September 1988, p. 19176.

45 *Commons Debates*, 13 September 1988, pp. 19179-19180.