

3. Human Rights and Democratic Development

Respect for human rights is one of the most important conditions for development. It is equally true that the existence of poverty and under-development is often due to the same conditions which give rise to human rights abuses. The promotion of development is, in itself, inextricably concerned with some of the most basic rights: the rights to shelter, health, nutrition, education and access to employment.

The promotion of respect for human rights is, as stated in Canada's International Relations, a fundamental and integral part of Canadian foreign policy. Consideration of the degree to which human rights are respected is undertaken in three ways as regards to the development cooperation program. In determining which countries are eligible for Canadian development assistance, the Government ensures that where a pattern of systematic, gross and continuous human rights violations is present, government-to-government assistance will be denied or reduced. In countries where concern has been expressed about the degree to which human rights are respected, the Government will ensure that Canadian development assistance funds are used to support activities designed to alleviate the condition of those adversely affected. Country Program Reviews will consider the extent to which human rights are respected. The Government will continue to use diplomatic pressure and persuasion to register its concerns and to direct the flow of development resources.

This balanced approach is designed to support the victims of abuse as much as possible while maintaining pressure where this is required. It is the Government's view that a positive approach, rather than a punitive one, should be taken concerning human rights within the international development program. Support will be given to educational initiatives which support an awareness of human rights and democratic development. Programs designed to integrate women into the economic mainstream also serve this purpose and increase opportunities, consistent with meeting the real