

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

Canada has and will continue to exert clear and consistent diplomatic and public pressure on the Government of Zimbabwe.

(i) At the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) in 2002 and 2003, Canada co-sponsored a resolution condemning the ongoing human rights violations in Zimbabwe. On the ground, Canada's diplomatic representatives delivered a formal demarche this past spring regarding the increased violence toward and intimidation of the opposition. Canada will continue the suspension of military sales, training and co-operation, government-to-government development assistance and technical co-operation and travel restrictions on senior government representatives until there is real and irreversible change in Zimbabwe.

Canada was a leader in the establishment of the International Criminal Court. We strongly believe that such a global and multilateral institution provides the best mechanism for ensuring the accountability of those accused of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. As Zimbabwe is not a signatory, the ICC has no jurisdiction and thus Robert Mugabe cannot be indicted by the Court in the absence of a UN Security Council Resolution calling for ICC action. Nevertheless, Canada will continue to work in other multilateral fora, including the UNCHR, to encourage respect for human rights in Zimbabwe, and to condemn those responsible for the most serious human rights abuses.

(ii) Members of the Canadian High Commission in Harare have and will continue to maintain a strong presence on the ground. Monitoring of political rallies, public strikes and other peaceful protests forms a fundamental part of the work of Canada's High Commission in Zimbabwe. Our representatives speak regularly with representatives of all political parties, the National Constitutional Assembly and civil society organizations.

(iii), (iv) and (v) Canada must work with its international partners and through existing multilateral mechanisms in responding to the crisis in Zimbabwe. On a bilateral basis, responding to the crisis forms part of discussions with our fellow Caribbean and African Commonwealth members. Such discussions also form part of regular bilateral discussions at the highest level, for example during the 2003 state visit to Canada of the President of Mozambique. The issue will also be raised with President Mbeki during his visit to Canada in November 2003. We strongly support the efforts of those leaders in the southern African region who are best placed to influence directly the behaviour of representatives of the Government of Zimbabwe.

Canada's efforts within the Commonwealth are ongoing. We have fully supported Commonwealth measures to date to address the situation in Zimbabwe. The Government welcomed the March 2002 conclusion of the Commonwealth Troika that Zimbabwe should be suspended from the Councils of the Commonwealth for one year. Members suspended from the Councils of the Commonwealth have, under the conditions established by the Millbrook Plan of Action, two years to demonstrate