

Upon tabling its new aid strategy in 1987, the Government stated that "Cabinet will be provided annually with information on the relevant human rights situations as part of their determination of channels through which Canadian assistance will be provided and what level of bilateral assistance will be allocated." Canadian aid, it announced, would be channelled through non-governmental and multilateral organizations to ensure that "aid goes directly to the poor in areas where it is most needed."⁹

Canada has adopted legislation to protect human rights within its own boundaries, namely the Canadian Bill of Rights, enacted in 1960, the Constitution Act on Human Rights (1977), and the Constitution Act comprising the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (1982). Since human rights come under provincial jurisdiction, the Federal Government has worked with the provinces (which have also passed their own legislation) to formulate Canadian policies in this field.

CURRENT CANADIAN POSITION

On 19 January 1989, after twenty-seven months of talks in Vienna, the thirty-five-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) issued a broad-ranging agreement on the protection of human rights. The Vienna Conference was the Third Follow-up Meeting (FUM) on the review of the Helsinki Final Act (1975) and involved all European countries (including the Soviet Union but with the exception of Albania), as well as Canada and the United States.

The Vienna Concluding Document commits participating governments to "respect the right of citizens to participate actively in the promotion and protection of human rights;...ensure freedom of religion and prevent discrimination against religious communities and individuals;...[and] respect freedom of movement within and between countries including the right to leave any country and return to one's own country."¹⁰ Other provisions ensure against arbitrary arrest, detention and abusive psychiatric practices and allow individuals, institutions and organizations "to obtain, possess, reproduce and distribute information material of all kinds."¹¹ Canada contributed to the

Ottawa, September 1987, pp. 50-52. See also: Schmitz and Berry, *supra* note 3, p. 13.

⁹ Canadian International Development Agency, *Sharing Our Future*. Ottawa, 1987, p. 93; and Schmitz and Berry, *Supra*⁹ note 3, p. 13.

¹⁰ Department of External Affairs, *News Release* No. 008 (16 January 1989), p. 1 (of Annex).

¹¹ "Excerpts from East-West Agreement on the Protection of Human Rights." *New York Times*, 17 January 1989, p. 1. See also: Robert Pear, "35 Nations Issue East-West Pact to Protect Broad Human Rights." *New York Times*, 17 January 1989, p. 1.