

CANADIAN POSITION

The Canadian government has studied the report submitted by a coalition comprising CUSO, the Ligue québécoise des droits et libertés, the Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale, and three Quebec labour organizations. The Canadian government has also studied a report by the Togolese Democracy Support Group which observed the elections of August 25. All have asked Canada to play a more active part in promoting democracy in Togo.

We indicated that the circumstances surrounding the presidential election of August 25 called its validity into question, and we did not contribute financially. The government has continued in the right direction by negotiating with the democratic opposition the scheduling of a legislative election for February 6 and 20, 1994, more in accordance with the legitimate expectations of the people. An International Follow-up Committee is assisting in this process. Canada supports the Committee. Whether Canadian electoral aid is provided will depend on the conditions under which these elections are held.

Finally, Canada has granted three million dollars in humanitarian aid for the Togolese refugees in Benin and Ghana. The majority of this aid will be administered by the World Food Program during the first quarter of 1994.

Canada is aware of the needs of the Togolese people. It has conveyed its expectations and supports the efforts to uphold the democratization of Togo. The political culture will have to change before any real progress toward respect for human rights occurs; this does not appear to be imminent.

At the 49th session of the Commission on Human Rights, Canada co-sponsored a consensus resolution deploring the human rights situation in Togo and calling on the Secretary-General to report on developments to this year's session.

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