

government to cut all existing ties - economic, cultural and political - with the country in question. Generally speaking this is not desirable. To attempt to make any impression bilaterally on the attitudes of other governments, we must be able to exert influence. We cannot do so by rhetoric alone. We can sometimes do so more effectively by making use of existing ties. On the other hand, we can and do take actions which reflect moral judgements.

Our development assistance program is designed to help meet the basic human needs of the poorest people in the poorest countries. Those living in countries whose human rights standards are low are usually helpless to change the situation or the regime which governs them. Our program is therefore governed by humanitarian and developmental criteria. Human rights considerations are nonetheless a factor in determining levels of aid and the orientation of programs. We must also consider in each case whether a country with an extremely poor record in terms of human rights has the will or is in a position to implement aid programs in accordance with Canadian objectives. Thus, on a few occasions when the human rights situation in a country has deteriorated to a stage where the effective implementation of the aid program is made extremely difficult, Canadian assistance has been suspended or not renewed.

I turn now to the question of trade and trade-related operations of the government. In considering the impact which human rights considerations can have on these, it is important to recall that Canada is a trading nation.

The economic welfare of our own citizens is at stake. For this reason the Canadian Government has not traditionally used unilateral economic measures as a tool to put pressure on a given country. Our policy takes into account not only the economic interests of Canadians, but also the fact that in few countries is Canadian trade critical to the regime. Therefore, Canada trades in peaceful goods with all countries except any against which the UN Security Council has imposed mandatory sanctions.

Human Rights considerations do enter into the question of Canadian arms sales. We do not export arms either to countries where there is an immediate threat of hostilities or