

into question our ability to deliver an assistance program to the most deserving people. In these types of cases, which are often volatile and short-lived, it is frequently the case that other donor governments, international organizations and development agencies are also incapable of mounting effective programs. But, where a political dialogue can be maintained, and where a development program can be delivered, the Government is of the opinion that such a program should be maintained if it can help the poorest and most afflicted people in such situations. Moreover, particular attention should be paid to developing the institutional structures and human resources which assist the people of the country concerned to achieve full respect for their fundamental human rights.

Where violations of human rights are systematic, gross and continuous, government-to-government aid is denied or reduced. The basic principle is to ensure that repressive regimes are not legitimized through Canadian development assistance policy, and that victims of human rights violations are not doubly penalized by being deprived of needed outside help as well as of their rights.

RECOMMENDATION

3.2 The Committee recommends:

- i) That a Human Rights Unit be established in the Policy Branch of CIDA to conduct training courses for development officers and to co-ordinate human rights policies and programs with the Department of External Affairs;

Accepted

The Department of External Affairs will continue to assume primary responsibility for the human rights aspect of Canada's foreign policy. A unit within CIDA will be given responsibility for ensuring that development assistance programs are consistent with Canada's overall foreign policy concern for human rights. Canadian development officers will receive a briefing on human rights issues as part of their pre-posting orientation program to make them more aware of human rights, and to give them a better understanding of the importance which the Government and the Canadian public attach to this question.