

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada has sought to avoid isolating China or breaking off contacts between Canadians and the Chinese people since China's worst human rights abuses have occurred during China's periods of greatest isolation such as the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976). Canada has developed a strategy aimed at denouncing the human rights abuses in China while assisting China to reform its judicial and legal structures. Canada has also worked to promote democracy and the rule of law in those sectors of Chinese society most receptive to such concepts. The following actions were taken in 1993:

- Canada sponsored a visit of scholars from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) to undertake a study of Canadian democracy which involved meetings with democracy and human rights experts and practitioners. The delegation attended a conference on democracy. Prior to this conference, a number of Canadian academics had gone to China to lecture on democracy.
- The Centre of Asian Legal Studies (CALS) and the University of British Columbia Law School have worked with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Institute of Law through seminars, lectures and the provision of books and teaching materials to help upgrade their understanding of human rights questions.
- The Chairman of the Canadian Bar Association's Committee on Human Rights in Developing Countries, Judge David Wells, explored Chinese interests in legal sector exchanges and had separate meetings with the Chinese Ministry of Justice and Procurate General.

At the same time, Canada has used every opportunity to remind Chinese authorities of our concerns about the human rights situation in China, including Tibet. The Canadian Embassy in Peking has had regular contacts with relevant Chinese institutions to make them aware of Canadian concerns about the human rights situation in China, to raise specific cases as appropriate and to provide information to organizations where it may be able to change the current system.

Bilateral high level official visits have been also the occasion to raise Canadian concerns about the human rights situation in China. Canadian concerns were expressed by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien during his meeting with Chinese President Jiang Zemin in the context of the APEC meeting in Seattle in November 1993.

Canada also has taken advantage of international fora to raise the human rights issue in China, including Tibet. At the 49th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Canada co-sponsored a resolution condemning China's human rights record, including in Tibet. This resolution was defeated by a no motion action, as were similar ones in 1992 and 1991, but Canadian concerns about the situation in China were reiterated in our statement to the CHR.

10

11

12