

The International Bill of Rights (the collective title for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the ICCPR, the ICESCR and its "Optional Protocol"), has spurred on the development of other international and regional agreements on human rights. An example of this is the Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which entered into force in 1975, and to which Canada is a signatory. Adherence to UN covenants and conventions is monitored by the UN and UN-related agencies--particularly by the General Assembly (Third Committee), the UN Commission on Human Rights, the Human Rights Committee and the International Labour Office. Compliance with the Helsinki Final Act is monitored by the CSCE.

On the bilateral plane, in response to human rights abuses, Canada suspended its aid to the Amin Government of Uganda in 1977; to Chile, Vietnam, Kampuchea and Afghanistan in the 1970s; and to El Salvador and Guatemala in 1981.⁴ (The decision to reinstate aid to El Salvador was made in December 1984 and to Guatemala in November 1987.)

In 1982-1983, in response to the Final Report of a House of Commons Sub-Committee on Canada's relations with Latin America and the Caribbean⁵, the Canadian Government announced that it "was prepared to terminate or suspend aid where 'gross violations of human rights or conditions of conflict make the provision of an aid program impossible,' and to prohibit arms sales 'to any government whose human rights practices are wholly repugnant to Canadian values'."⁶ The 1987 Government response to the Final Report of the House Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade, known as the Winegard Report⁷, stated:

The degree to which human rights are respected is a factor in determining eligibility for Canadian development assistance.... In situations where there is concern about...human rights, the content and channels through which development assistance is directed are chosen to alleviate the condition of those oppressed.... Where violations of human rights are systematic, gross and continuous, government-to-government aid is denied or reduced...Canada will continue to use a combination of public pressure and private persuasion to register our concerns and to make clear the importance of these issues in Canadian foreign and development policy.⁸

4 *Ibid.*, pp. 9-11.

5 *Ibid.*, p. 12. See also: Canada, House of Commons, Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, *Canada's Relations with Latin America and the Caribbean* (Issue No. 78). Ottawa, 1982.

6 *Ibid.*

7 William C. Winegard, Chairman, *For Whose Benefit? (Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade on Canada's Official Development Assistance Policies and Programs)*. Ottawa, May 1987.

8 Canadian International Development Agency, *Canadian International Development Assistance: To Benefit A Better World: Response of the Government of Canada to the Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade--or Whose Benefit?: Canada's Official Development Assistance Policies and Programs*.