

mental political and human rights problems which underlie most of the situations of massive exodus.

My department has further initiatives under consideration. I want to emphasize in particular my pleasure at the agreement of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan to serve as special rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of the relationship of massive exoduses and human rights abuses. This particular exercise is the result of a Canadian initiative, and during my visit to Geneva in April, I assured the Prince of Canada's strongest support for his sensitive mission.

I am pleased that my colleague, the Minister of Employment and Immigration, Mr. Axworthy, will be able to participate in this debate today, elaborating on his department's concern over the question of resettlement of refugees from the Latin American region.

I spoke yesterday of the over-all importance to Canada of its trading relationships and the growth of trade with the Third World. Latin America provides a dramatic illustration: in 1979, five of our top 25 trading partners were developing countries in the Western hemisphere.

In development assistance terms, in Central America, despite the absence of close political ties, Canada has recognized the pressing needs of the region and has been a leading aid donor, providing more than \$60 million in bilateral aid since 1972. In terms of concentration, Honduras and El Salvador, as the poorest of the area, have received the largest portion of the funding.

El Salvador

I should like finally to deal with that illustrative part of the motion which calls on the government "to initiate steps aimed at establishing a negotiated settlement of the tragic civil war in El Salvador".

Canada's links with El Salvador in terms of historic, linguistic, cultural, commercial and other ties, are limited in comparison to those of other countries in the world or, indeed, in the Western hemisphere. There are only 40 Canadians resident in that country and immigration has been about 100 per year. Canadian investments total less than \$10 million and exports in 1980 were only \$15 million. Our major involvement is in the aid field and even here all new planning has had to be halted because of the violence.

Although our direct links with El Salvador have historically not been great, this does not mean that Canada is not concerned at developments in El Salvador, in particular at the high level of violence and the continuing disregard for human rights which characterize the political scene. In dealing with these issues, our policy has been clear and consistent.

Canada's opposition to the supply of arms to competing forces in El Salvador was spelled out in my speech in the House of March 9. Canada's abhorrence of human rights violations has been and continues to be emphasized both in bilateral contacts and in multilateral forums. We also continue to believe that a political solution
