

Canadian embassies situated in a country where human rights violations are occurring should give high priority to human rights. Such embassies should be routinely instructed to raise individual cases or general concerns with the appropriate government officials either formally or informally. Embassy staff can be instructed to visit a prisoner's family, attend a trial or take other high-profile steps which would emphasize concern about the fate of an individual prisoner. Newly-appointed ambassadors should be encouraged to consult Canadian non-governmental organizations before being sent to their new country of accreditation. Furthermore, embassies should be instructed regularly to report on the human rights situation in their countries of accreditation.

Canada can express its concern regarding human rights violations in other countries by the Secretary of State for External Affairs requesting a formal consultation with the ambassador of the offending country. Furthermore, a government Minister, government officials or politicians could raise their concerns when meeting representatives of an offending government on a visit to Canada or at international meetings and conferences.

#### MULTILATERAL RELATIONS

The Canadian Section of Amnesty International hopes that Canada will vigorously support the human rights machinery within the network of the United Nations. Furthermore, we believe that the Canadian government should support the creation of regional systems for the protection of human rights similar to those created through the Council of Europe and the Organization of American States. In multilateral fora, Canada should be activist and innovative. While Canada should act in concert with like-minded governments, it should also take initiatives and lead other like-minded governments in standard-setting work. As well, persistence and determination are necessary in working for the development and acceptance of the most effective implementation procedure possible.

Canada has considerable opportunity in its multilateral and bilateral relations to contribute to international well-being and the promotion of human rights. This opportunity will be lost if concrete mechanisms are not established in Canada which will facilitate the delivery of an effective Canadian foreign policy regarding the international promotion and protection of human rights. Given time constraints, the Canadian Section of Amnesty International is not in a position to elaborate in further detail on the various