

Winnipeg in September and October 1996.

The TCCR has developed a grassroots campaign around the World Council of Churches' petition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions leading to climate change, and has involved Canadian insurance companies in this campaign as allies. In the Fall of 1997, it is planning to convene a conference on Canada's weak compliance with climate change commitments. Meanwhile, the Sierra Club is about to launch a campaign on global climate change in partnership with the Body Shop and the Suzuki Foundation.

The TCCR also works on a number of concerns related to the practices of mining companies, involving Canadian mining companies operating in Canada and in other parts of the world. This includes co-operation with the Inter-Church Committee on Human Rights In Latin America (ICCHRLA) and the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development (ICHRDD). The TCCR has focused on the environmental impact of Placer Dome's mining operations in the Philippines, and of Cathedral Gold in Guyana. It has recently established a Mining Working Group to give more attention to this sector, particularly by setting up bench marks specific to the mining industry.

Another church-based research and advocacy group, the Ecumenical Coalition for Economic Justice (ECEJ), plans to do a critical analysis of the concept of sustainable development during the year ahead. This work will include a contribution to the methodology for developing the Alternative Federal Budget in 1998 in a way that factors ecological costs and benefits into the national accounts.

Finally, the work of the Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI), described in greater detail in the section on Food Security, addresses the aspect of Agenda 21 dealing with sustainable agriculture and the preservation of biodiversity. RAFI is active at the international level in monitoring the practices of multilateral institutions, particularly the Food and Agriculture Organization. It monitors the performance of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the umbrella organization of agricultural research institutions, and led a successful appeal for an external review of the member institutions; it will be carried out this year by Maurice Strong.

2. Human Rights

Policy goal: Make human rights central to the practice of Canadian foreign