

agency initiatives on this matter in Third World countries.

The Report of the Special Rapporteurs on the proposed Institute for Human Rights and Institutional Development noted that Canada, through CIDA, IDRC and the Canadian Human Rights Commission, has begun actively to strengthen and promote human rights and the evolution of institutions to protect and safeguard the rights and liberties of citizens of developing countries.

Canadian development assistance will be provided, where circumstances warrant, to help in the legal enshrinement of rights, in public education, in the holding of elections, in the establishment of ombudsmen, in the protection of the rights of individuals through labor and cooperative organizations, in the provision of legal assistance, and in helping the families of detainees. In this way, developing countries are assisted in strengthening their policies and practices on human rights, and in the development of institutions which generate respect for internationally accepted standards. Without such a strong and supportive infrastructure of laws, institutions, programs and practices, support for human rights becomes rhetorical and ineffective.

The Government approaches the objective of strengthening human rights not only in the context of development aid, but also in the broader context of its relations with other countries.

During appearances by the responsible ministers before Parliamentary Committees, the Government undertakes to provide information concerning human rights in countries receiving Canadian development assistance. Given the subject matter, the committees may wish to hold such meetings in camera. As this is not a field in which perfect answers or solutions exist, the Government will be happy to consider any suggestions which result from such meetings.

RECOMMENDATION

- iii) That CIDA collaborate further with the Department of External Affairs in the preparation of an annual ODA-Human Rights Review to be tabled in Parliament and referred to this Committee and to the Standing Committee on Human Rights.