

Within the framework of Sub-Committee hearings, the human rights ramifications of structural adjustment can be subjected to comprehensive examination. We expect to arrive at recommendations for ensuring that human rights considerations are given proper weight by Canada, by the IFIs and by Canada's representatives at these institutions.

5. UNIFYING THEMES: COHERENCE, OPENNESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

During hearings held this year, three themes appeared to be consistently of concern to invited witnesses before the Sub-Committee. These themes were raised with respect to each of the areas addressed earlier in this Interim Report.

A. Coherence

Several witnesses recommended that the Committee review the lack of congruence between what Canada does rhetorically to promote human rights and our actions in the aid, trade and financial fields. As ODA has become increasingly acknowledged as one instrument for human rights promotion, it has become apparent, according to these observers, that initiatives taken to incorporate human rights into ODA have not been accompanied by coordinated approaches in commercial and monetary spheres. The Sub-Committee intends to seek input from government, business, voluntary and academic sectors regarding greater coordination and consistency in pursuit of human rights goals throughout Canada's foreign relations policies and operations.

B. Openness

A common thread running through our Committee proceedings has been the desire expressed by witnesses and Members alike for more openness and more candid disclosure by the government concerning decision-making processes and related actions connected with the human rights component of our dealings with other countries and with multilateral agencies. The call for "transparency" was echoed in exchanges concerning, among others, ODA, trade promotion through such mechanisms as the Export Development Corporation, deliberations of the IFIs, and controls over trade in goods with military or repressive uses. The Sub-Committee intends to seek input from all interested parties concerning the most efficacious and realistic ways to achieve enhanced governmental openness with respect to human rights in foreign policy.