

Committee can also monitor the Division on Human Rights to ensure that it is operating effectively.

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Canadian Section recommends the creation of a Public Advisory Committee having the mandate to advise the Secretary of State for External Affairs on specific problems of human rights and foreign policy. The Advisory Committee should consist of well-informed human rights experts appointed in their individual capacities, including academics and persons enjoying the confidence of non-governmental organizations. The Committee can advise the Secretary of State at his or her request or on its own initiative. If the Secretary of State decides not to follow the advice of the Advisory Committee, then the Secretary of State must record in writing the reasons for not doing so. A specific role of the Advisory Committee could be to review annually the human rights training program created by the Department of External Affairs.

MILITARY, SECURITY AND POLICE TRANSFERS

The Canadian Section believes that the Canadian government should strengthen its procedures to ensure that military, security or police transfers of goods or services from Canada to receiving countries are never used by receiving countries in a way that can contribute to torture, disappearances, or extra-judicial executions. Consequently, we recommend the introduction of legislation and regulations which would require the human rights situation in receiving countries to be taken into consideration prior to export permits being issued for military, security or police transfers. Amnesty International is of the view that such laws should prohibit military, security or police transfers from taking place where they can be reasonably assumed to contribute to human rights violations. The Division of Human Rights would be well-placed to monitor the implementation of such a policy.

BILATERAL RELATIONS

In countries where proven human rights violations occur, the Canadian government should not hesitate to voice its concerns during bilateral consultations. Human rights issues should be raised not only by our officials but also by our Ministers. The nature of the representations should be clear and unambiguous. It should be made clear to foreign officials that Canada's concerns emanate from universally recognized rights and that not only the Canadian people are concerned but also the Canadian government. Bilateral consultations offer Canada the unique opportunity of raising individual cases on a confidential basis between two governments. A discussion dealing with human rights as an agenda item during a bilateral consultation is a form of pressure on an offending government which can lead to concrete improvements in the lives of persecuted individuals.