

the most notorious prisons in Iran. The organized tour was seen as part of the annual Iranian counter-offensive to the report of the UN Special Representative on Iran. In the mean time, the UN Special Representative is still denied permission to pay a fourth visit to Iran to obtain first hand information.

### CANADIAN POSITION

Canada is disturbed by continuing violations of the right to life, the Iranian authorities' repressive attitude towards women (periodic crackdowns to enforce a dress code and humiliating treatment during their detention), and the continuing persecution of the Baha'i community. We have urged Iran's renewed co-operation with the International Committee of the Red Cross. We will continue to press for full Iranian co-operation with the Special Representative.

Canada continues to use the opportunity of bilateral contacts to express its ongoing concerns over Iran's human rights record and to urge that it be improved. In 1994, as for the previous years, Canadian officials have repeatedly raised human rights issues with the Iranian Embassy in Ottawa and officials in Teheran, including the plight of religious minorities.

At the 49th session of UNGA, the Canadian Representative to the United Nations called for renewed co-operation on the part of Iran with the Special Representative, and for all efforts possible to prevent the type of murderous attacks witnessed over the last year against members of Iranian religious minorities, particularly against the Baha'i community. The Canadian Representative added that the fatwa against British author Salman Rushdie is an outrage against the values promoted by the United Nations.

Canada also co-sponsored a UNGA resolution calling on Iran to improve its record. The matter will be raised again at the Commission on Human Rights early in 1995. Canada will once again be actively involved at the CHR in negotiations leading to the adoption of a strong resolution on the situation of human rights in Iran.