

prevalent, however, are situations where human rights considerations have not been integrated, a shortcoming which is seen by many Canadians to contribute to the maintenance in power of abusive regimes and to slow the process of democratic development.

Statements about human rights malfeasance made in multilateral arenas such as the United Nations, and meetings of C.S.C.E. member nations and the Commonwealth are sometimes reflected in our ODA allocations. In 1985, for example, Canada suspended its contribution to Sri Lanka's Mahaweli River dam and irrigation scheme, partly because of racial discrimination against Tamils in the planned resettlement of the local population.⁽³⁾

Much rarer are instances in which trade initiatives and international financial dealings supported by Canada have taken into account the human rights performance of other governments benefitting from these arrangements. One of the very few clear examples occurred in 1980, when the Canadian government removed newsprint from the list of commodities eligible for purchase under a line of credit to Guyana, because newsprint was not being made available to the opposition press.⁽⁴⁾

Actions on the political, aid, trade and fiscal fronts are not conspicuously coordinated, and sometimes may be mutually contradictory. For example, the "confused signals" given by Canada to El Salvador and Guatemala during the 1980s have come under pointed criticism. Canada temporarily suspended planning of new bilateral aid on human rights grounds, while maintaining credit assistance for trade purposes.⁽⁵⁾ Indonesia, to take another example, has been among the major recipients of Canadian aid in recent years while engaging in serious and systematic violations of human rights in East Timor.

Current Canadian policy and practices allow our government to approve loans to, and encourage trade with, states whose human rights records we condemn. This does not serve the cause of human rights or Canada's overall interests.

Certain non-governmental organizations and academic commentators have criticized the seeming lack of commitment to human rights goals in Canada's international commercial and financial dealings. Preliminary study by the Sub-Committee has demonstrated that non-governmental advocates for human rights can support their contention that there is a lack of consistency in our external relations policy. An additional problem, regardless of which policy instruments might be chosen to promote greater linkage with human rights, is the need for realistic and reliable methods of fact-finding to monitor the human rights situations in countries under review, a matter addressed in part 2 of this Report. Our canvass of information provided by non-governmental, government and academic contributors has made it clear that we are dealing with a complex subject that requires sophisticated exploration.