

## RECOMMENDATION

- ii) That CIDA begin immediately to elaborate a Human Rights in Development policy framework, with an appropriate country classification grid, such as the country classification system suggested in Chapter Three of this Report, to be included in its annual report to Parliament;

### Accepted in part

The Government shares the view of the Committee that human rights concerns must be fully integrated in Canada's development policies. As part of its overall mandate in the field of international relations, the Department of External Affairs will continue to monitor human rights issues throughout the world, paying particular attention to systematic, gross and continuous violations of human rights.

External Affairs will continue to address problems of human rights through appropriate multilateral organizations and institutions, and through bilateral contacts with the countries concerned.

The Government believes that the establishment of a grid, and especially the classification of countries according to such a grid, would not serve the overall interests of Canadian development assistance or of Canadian foreign policy. The judgments implicit in the use of such a grid are too subjective. The grid would not adequately take into account the vast number of situations where violations of human rights are worrisome, but where they are at the same time unequal, applying only to some aspects of civil and political rights or to selected areas of economic, social and cultural rights. Moreover, the impact of such a grid would be essentially punitive and judgmental rather than positive and developmental. The Government prefers to support positive programs which assist the poorest and those most victimized by violations of fundamental rights.

Canada's development assistance program takes account of the human rights situation in developing countries. Canada will continue to use a combination of public pressure and private persuasion to register our concerns and to make clear the importance of these issues in Canadian foreign and development policy. As it already indicated in its response to the Hockin/Simard report, the Government will establish an International Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights and Institutional Development in order to support government and private