

Government Response to the Report of the Standing Committee of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

there - as a full partner- for as long as it takes.” Canada will ensure that it is a valued, responsive and first tier partner to this strategically important Islamic democracy.

RECOMMENDATION 29

Canada should also pursue increased counter-terrorist and security cooperation with the Government of Indonesia, including for the peaceful resolution of ethnic and other conflicts.

Southeast Asia is often referred to as the second front in the global campaign against international terrorism, and Indonesia remains one of the most affected countries in the region. The Government continues to support Indonesia in its efforts to counter terrorist activities within its borders. This commitment has been expressed by Canada’s Prime Minister and Foreign Minister to their Indonesian counterparts and is supported by Canada’s engagement in bilateral, regional and multilateral counter-terrorism capacity building initiatives with Indonesia. The Government has undertaken a number of initiatives to support Indonesia’s counter-terrorism capacity building efforts, and will pursue increased engagement under the Foreign Affairs Canada managed “Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building Program” that was created as a mechanism of the April 2004 National Security Policy. In these endeavours, Canada consistently emphasizes the importance of ensuring that all efforts to combat terrorism are taken in accordance with international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law.

The Government continues to work closely with the Indonesian government and partners in the region to identify opportunities to assist Indonesia in pursuing peaceful resolution to regional conflicts. The Government supports the work of Canadian NGOs for conflict resolution in Indonesia, and particularly in West Timor, Central Sulawesi, Aceh and West Papua.

RECOMMENDATION 30

Given that most Canadian development assistance to Malaysia will end in 2004, the Government of Canada should ensure adequate resources remain available to continue working with other countries and moderate civil-society groups — particularly women’s groups — to strengthen institutions of governance and support democratic development, pluralism, minority and other human rights in Malaysia.

Malaysia has achieved remarkable economic progress and has emerged as an economic leader in Southeast Asia. In March 2004, Canada formally ceased providing bilateral official development assistance to Malaysia, marking the transition to a new bilateral relationship - from a donor-recipient basis to one based on full and equal partnership. Export Development Canada (EDC) opened an office in Malaysia in May 2004 to promote and facilitate this new partnership. The Government remains strongly committed to the promotion of good governance, strengthened national institutions, democratic development and human rights in Malaysia and continues to explore new ways to pursue these goals. Ongoing assistance objectives include fostering a long-term relationship with Malaysia and the region and helping to address key sustainable development issues.