

*Motions*

I would like to read what the commission recommends as far as human rights are concerned. Emergency humanitarian aid continues to be given on compassionate grounds without preconditions, but that it be monitored closely to prevent abuses. Even in situations where we have a very bad human rights situation emergency aid should continue to be given on humanitarian grounds. Victims of human rights violations should not be forgotten when decisions are taken to reduce or deny long term development aid to governments. Somehow we have to try to accommodate the victims so that they do not become doubly penalized.

Human rights criteria should be developed coherently as part of over-all Canadian foreign policy, and that these be applied in a universal consistent and transparent manner. Such criteria, embracing both individual, civil and political rights and socio-economic and cultural rights, be derived from established standards of international human rights law and convention.

Verifiable reports of violations, not ideology or strategic interests, be the basis for unfavourable assessment of human rights observance. We are all aware of the game sometimes played between the two major powers in our world where one accuses the other of human rights violations and does so on the basis of ideology. I think we want to move beyond that and say that our assessment should be based on verifiable reports of violations.

More generally, progress on human rights should be considered part of development, with assessments of the human rights situation in a given country being related to the over-all record of development, particularly from the vantage point of the poorest people. In other words, we try to assess human rights from the way in which development impacts on the poorest people of a country.

The committee suggested that there be human rights units within CIDA, and goes on to suggest that the Government should develop a human rights grid under which recipient countries would be in one of four categories. First, human rights negative. These would be extreme cases judged by the international community to be guilty of persistent gross and systemic violations. These countries would be ineligible for government aid. Some basic needs assistance might continue through non-governmental organizations working directly with the poor. Second would be a category called human rights watch. This would involve cases of lesser or variable concern in which serious allegations have been made, but there are many gray areas and development progress is still possible. Any direct bilateral assistance would be very carefully targetted and monitored. Third is what we would call human rights satisfactory in which specific human rights problems may arise as they do in all states but in which the over-all development context is judged to be acceptable. The full range of aid channels could be employed.

Fourth, we suggest that there should be, a category called human rights positive in which the human rights record of the

Government is exemplary or in which there has been a marked and sustained improvement in the human rights situation and developmental orientation of the Government. In the latter cases aid might be increased selectively in order to strengthen those positive directions.

We urge that External Affairs along with CIDA prepare an annual ODA human rights review which would be tabled in this House and then referred to the appropriate committee. We say that those countries which are judged to be human rights negative would be ineligible to receive government to government assistance, although non-governmental organizations might still be able to work in those countries and receive matching funds from CIDA.

We recommend that the Government should work for changes in international financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund that would allow human rights concerns to be placed on the agenda as part of the criteria that had to be met for loans.

We reiterate the recommendations from the special joint committee on Canada's external relations which were accepted by the Government. There should be an international institute of human rights and democratic development. This would be a pro-active institution that would seek to offer advice and help to countries attempting to develop human rights institutions. We are concerned that while there has been some movement on this, the movement has been very slow by the Government although it has announced it is in favour of that institute.

Finally with regard to human rights we say that military exports should be prohibited to any country which is regarded as being ineligible for development aid because of the human rights situation. The whole relationship between the military expenditures and development assistance is something that concerns all members of the committee. As we see the spiralling costs of military expenses throughout our world, both in the developed world and in the Third World, we have to take whatever action we can to dampen that. We made a number of recommendations regarding aid and trade.

While supporting the general principle that all other factors being equal, Canadian goods and services should be purchased in preference to those of other countries, the committee recommends that the Government relax to 50 per cent the current rule requiring that about 80 per cent of the bilateral country program budget must be spent on goods and services purchased in Canada. Eighty per cent of tied aid is one of the highest percentages of tied aid anywhere in the world. We feel that this is not acceptable and does not lead to good development processes for the Third World.

With regard to the least developed countries of the sub-Saharan Africa, we urge that CIDA be able to waive completely the tied aid requirements. We urge that Canada continue to support OECD attempts to restrict the practice of using a mix of aid and commercial financing, the so-called mixed credits, to make Canadian exports more attractive in the Third World; that is, taking aid and mixing it in with