

unsuccessful, although the expert's mandate under Item 21 was extended. Latin American solidarity and a wish to give the Serrano Government a chance were key factors.

Under the confidential 1503 procedure, the Subcommission decided to keep Myanmar, Chad, Somalia and Sudan under continued scrutiny. Zaire, however, was dropped from the 1503 procedure at this year's session.

A total of 24 countries were mentioned in Canada's Item 12 speech to the Commission, which was generally very well-received.

Indigenous Issues

One of Canada's main achievements at CHR47 was the progress made on plans for the 1993 International Year for the World's Indigenous People, a resolution on which Canada took the lead. The resolution incorporates the important principle that indigenous people themselves should be directly involved in planning the Year. The co-drafters of the resolution agreed to delay the setting of the theme for the Year until UNGA47. This now affords time for Canadian and other aboriginal organizations to consult amongst themselves and with Governments with a view toward informing the UN Secretary-General of favoured theme(s).

Canada also successfully introduced a resolution authorizing the Working Group on Indigenous Populations to meet for 10 working days - with all meetings fully serviced (provided with translation, production of printed material, etc.) - prior to the meetings of the Sub-commission. This improvement will provide the Working Group with a greater opportunity to carry out the vital work of drafting a declaration on the rights of indigenous people.

Detentions

Item 10, which includes Detentions, Torture, Disappearances and the Administration of Justice, was a major agenda item covering an important area of human rights violations. Although it causes much less controversy than Item 12 (country situations), it can be argued that the mechanisms established under Item 10 - such as the Special Rapporteur on Torture or the Working Group on Disappearances - have been even more effective in promoting and protecting human rights.

In this area, there were some noteworthy achievements at CHR47. A major new mechanism, the Working Group on Detentions - was established as a proposal from the Chair, which implies the full support of all members of the Commission. In his report on the practice of administrative detention, Sub-commission expert Louis Joinet identified a strong need for machinery to prevent and report violations of international standards concerning the legality of all forms of detention. A Working Group was one of four options