

A positive development on East Timor this year was the initiation of the All Inclusive Intra-Timorese Dialogue, where a degree of consensus was achieved. Unfortunately, recurring violence and killings point to a continuing deterioration of the situation in the territory itself. We welcome moves by the Indonesian National Human Rights Commission to investigate the situation. We continue to encourage the Indonesian Government to implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions and to cooperate with other UN thematic mechanisms. We are gratified by the Indonesian Government's invitation to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and trust he will have full freedom of movement and access to all those he wishes to meet.

We are still concerned by the human rights situation in China, especially with regard to freedom of expression and religion. Canada appreciates China's efforts in making its judicial system more transparent and open and are pleased to cooperate with China in this regard. We look forward to greater openness and dialogue with China on the issues of human rights and the rule of law.

In Vietnam, the imprisonment of religious leaders and individuals calling for democratic reforms causes us deep concern. We urge the Vietnamese authorities to implement the recommendations made by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions following its October 1994 visit to that country.

The release of a number of political prisoners in Cuba over the past year is a sign of willingness to address some areas of concern. We also recognize Cuba's positive record in relation to economic and social rights. Nevertheless, much remains to be done to address abuses in the areas of civil and political rights. We continue to urge Cuba to receive the Special Rapporteur and to follow through on its stated willingness to work with thematic rapporteurs.
Mr. Chairman,

The situation is not uniformly bleak. Progress has been made towards greater respect for human rights in many parts of the world. The situation in Latin America as a whole continues to inspire optimism.

The Government of Haiti deserves praise for the remarkable improvement in the human rights situation since the return of President Aristide one year ago. Canada will continue to work with the international community to support civil institutions in Haiti. We are pleased that the office of the High