

rights issues that feature on the agendas of Inter-Governmental Organizations.

The Canadian Section takes great pride in being able to state that Canada has gone beyond lofty declarations by performing concrete acts which have given real meaning to its stated human rights policy objectives. We have watched with great satisfaction as the Canadian government has taken an activist approach to promoting human rights and opposing human rights violations in bilateral and multilateral fora. As a result, the Canadian Section has often made the statement that we consider the Immigration Commission and the Department of External Affairs our allies in the struggle for the international promotion and protection of human rights. Nevertheless, we are concerned that Canada's activist approach must be not only sustained but also expanded to ensure Canada is a world leader in the international human rights arena.

DIVISION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The Canadian Section recommends that Canada create a Division of Human Rights within the Department of External Affairs. This Division can provide institutionalized support for a vigorous international human rights policy. The Division can also perform a coordinating role for human rights issues throughout the federal bureaucracy. It can be responsible for the training and education of diplomats and officials of the Department in subjects such as international standards and actions related to human rights that diplomats can undertake when working abroad. The training could further deal with reporting on human rights, refugee work, and the implementation of a stated foreign policy regarding human rights. These few potential responsibilities of the Division are certainly not exhaustive.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The Canadian Section of Amnesty International recommends the establishment of a Standing Committee on Human Rights. Its mandate should include, inter alia, international human rights concerns. This Standing Committee should provide the opportunity for Canadians to express their concerns and ideas regarding Canada's role in the international arena of human rights. The Committee should have the mandate to initiate studies of particular international human rights concerns in addition to responding to any concerns at the request of the Secretary of State for External Affairs or any other relevant Minister. The Standing Committee should ensure that it considers matters within its jurisdiction in such a way that it avoids any geographical, political or ideological bias. We would welcome a provision wherein the Secretary of State must record his or her reasons in writing when any recommendation of the Standing Committee is not implemented. The Standing