

- b) there is very little room for reductions in the already meagre support afforded the United Nations human rights program. Key parts of the program, such as the total budget for special rapporteurs, have been reduced to what is possibly the minimum budget consistent with realistic, effective fact-finding work. If further reductions have to be made, care must be taken that these reductions do not erode the capability of the Centre for Human Rights to discharge its key mandate.
- c) with respect to reports and other documents, the mistakes of 1986 cannot be repeated. Realistic guidelines have to be developed about the length of reports, and reports should be written which conform to those guidelines. On the other hand, arbitrary and destructive decisions cannot be taken after the fact to limit the circulation of information. Reports should focus on analysis, trends, recommendations and conclusions, and not on superfluous and redundant discussion about mandates and meetings.
- d) the Commission on Human Rights should have summary records, as this is the key body in the general field of human rights in the United Nations system. Similarly, where other bodies are working in treaty-making, standard-setting and the examination of country reports, as is the case with much of the work of the Human Rights Committee, summary records should be provided for these bodies as well.
- e) work should be undertaken to assess whether a portion of the work of the Centre for Human Rights lends itself to voluntary funding by Governments or in co-operation with non-governmental organizations. While the Government of Canada is not in a position to say definitively that it could contribute to a voluntary fund in the field of human rights, certain programs could be funded voluntarily in conjunction with governments.
- f) the work of the United Nations in the field of human rights helps to sustain the prestige of the Organization in the eyes of the Canadian public. Any erosion in the human rights program would be seen as limiting the effectiveness of the United Nations, and would have a debilitating effect on Canadian confidence in the ability of the Organization of move forward in this vital area.