

Government is actively pursuing bilateral oil supply arrangements with other countries, such as Mexico and Venezuela, which would enhance our longer term energy security through diversity of supply. Petro-Canada would be expected to play an important intermediary role in implementing such arrangements.

8. The Human Dimension

Canada is deeply engaged in the quest for human rights around the world. We reject the argument that human rights are a purely domestic matter. All states, through their adherence to the Charter of the United Nations, have undertaken an obligation to protect and promote the fundamental rights of all persons within their borders. When this international obligation is not fulfilled, other states, including Canada, must concern themselves. During the past year we made bilateral representations to a number of governments over reports of human rights violations. The Canadian delegation to the UN Commission on Human Rights (of which a Canadian, Yvon Beaulne, is currently session chairman) is actively pursuing several human rights initiatives, and in particular one on disappeared persons. Canada is urging action in the Commission on situations of gross abuses of human rights wherever they occur.

The increase in the global refugee problem is of concern to Canada. We are strongly supporting the humanitarian efforts of the UNHCR to obtain an adequate international response to the plight of refugees throughout the world. On the political level, Canada is seeking to focus attention on the interrelationship between refugee outflows and human rights violations within the countries concerned.

Progress in the area of family reunification during 1978 was steady. Canada continues to make representations to the USSR and the countries of Eastern Europe regarding relatives of Canadian citizens who wish to be re-united with their families in Canada. Canada will seek to sustain this momentum in the period before the next CSCE meeting in Madrid in 1980. Family re-unification is also a feature of our relations with China and Vietnam.

I must also mention that we are especially concerned for the protection and well being of our own citizens abroad. Over half a million instances of consular service were provided last year, ranging from routine assistance to emergency evacuation of Canadians from Iran.