

lives of many civilians. As well, allegations regarding the use of children in combat situations continue, contrary to commitments made by the LTTE during the May 1998 visit to Sri Lanka of Olara Otunnu, the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations on Children in Armed Conflict.

#### **CANADIAN POSITION**

Canada remains concerned about the conflict and the absence of peaceful solutions, and does not hesitate to make its voice heard in appropriate international fora to advocate human rights in Sri Lanka. Canada continues to encourage Sri Lankan authorities to **pursue their cooperation** with United Nations human rights agencies. We also urge them to take steps to strengthen their own human rights advocacy agencies, and emphasize the need to work with international organizations and civil society to ensure that emergency humanitarian assistance reaches those in need. In light of the situation in Sri Lanka, Canada regards **dialogue, respect for human rights and condemnation of terrorist actions as central to furthering peace in Sri Lanka**. All parties must be involved in seeking a peaceful solution. We plan to continue working with human rights organizations in a constructive manner.