

judicial processes; and to appeal for leniency on appropriate humanitarian grounds, to the extent which local law and practice permit.

Of course, relatively few Canadians encounter difficulties with the laws of other countries. This is a testimony to their understanding of what it means to be a visitor in another country. Most cases which arise, happily, are dealt with quietly and effectively by our consular officers; the few cases that prove really difficult and sometimes beyond our control are, of course, the ones that draw public attention.

Canadians, upon being detained by the local authorities abroad, can normally inform our Embassies or Consulates of their arrest. In rendering assistance, my officials, rather like doctors or lawyers, endeavour to respect their confidences. Foreign governments are under no obligation to inform our representatives when a Canadian is in custody, unless the person detained so requests, or our representative makes an inquiry. Nonetheless, most foreign governments do notify our representatives when a Canadian is in custody.

Whenever our Embassies and Consulates abroad are notified that Canadian citizens have been arrested or are otherwise in difficulty with the local laws, they immediately seek information about the person concerned, and the charges being laid, if any. One of the most important rights is that of consular access. This is so that our representatives can ascertain, and respond to, the individual's wishes regarding legal counsel, notification of next-of-kin, and other specific requests he may have.

It can sometimes happen that the individuals in question, for various reasons of their own, do not want Canadian representatives or their own relatives to be aware of their situation. They might request the local authorities not to notify our people. There are, therefore, instances where we do not know about the predicament a Canadian is in. Or we learn about it only later, and perhaps even by accident. Sometimes, the individual concerned decides, in time, to request assistance after all.

There is an understandable concern and sympathy on the part of other Canadians when a fellow Canadian, or perhaps a family member, is in legal difficulties abroad. When local laws and procedures are more rigorous or harsh than those that apply in Canada, there can be even greater concern and a feeling that an injustice is being perpetrated and that the Government and my Department should "do something about it." I fully understand and sympathize with this sentiment.

But our dealings with other governments on these matters must be carried out within the guidelines of international law and accepted international practice, which I have outlined. Canada would not tolerate attempts by foreign governments to interfere in our own judicial processes on behalf of their nationals, nor would we take kindly to outraged or intemperate criticisms of our judicial practices.

I sometimes receive suggestions that we take drastic action toward this or that government. I am urged to sever trade or aid relations with a country which is not treating one of our citizens in accordance with our standards. I