



Amnesty International

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CANADIAN SECTION (ENGLISH SPEAKING)

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November 26, 1985

Senator Jacques Flynn, P.C.
Tom Hockin, M.P.
Joint Chairmen
Special Joint Committee on
Canada's International Relations
Box 663 West Block
Houses of Parliament
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Sirs:

Amnesty International welcomes this opportunity to express its views regarding the international promotion and protection of human rights and the mechanisms for formulating and delivering Canadian foreign policy in this area pursuant to themes four and six of your Committee's terms of reference. We believe that all governments as members of the world community share the responsibility for human rights. This responsibility requires a well-informed, credible foreign policy with the promotion and protection of human rights as a cornerstone. Amnesty International believes, as well, that governments must create appropriate human rights machinery within governmental institutions which will facilitate the effective formulation and delivery of a stated human rights foreign policy. The international human rights policy of a government should promote human rights, oppose human rights violations and help victims of human rights violations.

The Canadian Section of Amnesty International values deeply the healthy dialogue that has developed over the years between the Canadian government and the organization. Discussions have taken place primarily with the Minister of Employment and Immigration and the Immigration Commission regarding refugee concerns, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Department of External Affairs regarding prisoners of conscience, countries, themes, or human

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL is a worldwide movement which is independent of any government, political grouping, ideology, economic interest or religious creed. It plays a specific role within the overall spectrum of human rights work. The activities of the organization focus strictly on prisoners:

- It seeks the *release* of men and women detained anywhere for their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religion, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed "*prisoners of conscience*".
- It advocates *fair and early trials* for all *political prisoners* and works on behalf of such persons detained without charge or without trial.
- It opposes the *death penalty* and *torture* or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of all *prisoners* without reservation.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL has consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC), UNESCO and the Council of Europe, has cooperative relations with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States and is a member of the Coordinating Committee of the Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees of the Organization of African Unity.