

CANADIAN POSITION

At the Consultative Group meeting for Malawi in May 1992, the Canadian delegation put on record its view that Malawi's human rights record was unacceptable, and bilateral aid was consequently suspended. Throughout 1992 several demarches were made to Ministers on behalf of prisoners of conscience Orton and Vera Chirwa, both before the death of Mr. Chirwa in October 1992, and thereafter to secure the release of Mrs. Chirwa. The High Commission also made numerous interventions to seek the release from prison of Opposition leader Chakufwa Chihana, imprisoned for treason.

Canada has continued to play an active role in addressing human rights issues in Malawi in 1993. In March, Prime Minister Mulroney addressed a letter to Life President Banda, principally on human rights issues. Messages of a similar nature have been delivered to Malawian ministers and officials on several other occasions. Canada is encouraged that preparations for the May 17 elections are preceding according to schedule and we will monitor them with great interest.

8

9

10

11

12