

Liberia has more than a million internally-displaced persons and refugees in neighbouring countries. The Liberian Refugee, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) headed by a former opposition leader, Alhaji Kromah, has been working with the UNHCR on the displaced-persons issue. However, the fear of reprisals and the lack of a credible effort towards national reconciliation are undermining the refugee program.

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada's policy on Liberia is to assist the **consolidation of peace and democratic rule**. We will continue to pursue human-rights objectives through multilateral channels and through Canadian non-governmental organizations doing humanitarian work in Liberia.

Since the beginning of the civil war, Canada had contributed \$37 million in **food and humanitarian aid** and another \$5 million during the months leading up to the 1997 elections. **Children in conflict** is a major Canadian concern. Canada has given assistance to Canadian and international NGOs working on their rehabilitation in Liberia. In 1998, Canada provided UNICEF with \$200,000 for a project on the rehabilitation of war soldiers in the country.

Canada believes that **the ultimate responsibility lies with the Taylor government to improve the situation by**, among other things, a) ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and respecting its tenets, b) effectively reintegrating refugees and the internally displaced, c) reconstructing the judiciary at all levels, d) bringing detention facilities up to international standards, and e) training the police force to function in a civilian environment.