

In addition to the above representations, the Canadian Embassy made repeated requests, on the average of once a month, for permission to visit Mr. Lippert. Requests to visit him were granted three times in 1963; three times in 1964; three times in 1965; three times in 1966; six times in 1967; four times in 1968; four times in 1969; four times in 1970; four times in 1971; three times in 1972; and four times in 1973. It should be noted that visits were always subject to prior approval by the Cuban authorities, which often resulted in delays, and that on occasion Mr. Lippert refused to see Canadian consular officers who had come to visit him. In addition to these visits, the Department of External Affairs organized in July 1973 the visit to Havana of Mr. Lippert's sister and daughter, during which he was moved to the hotel where his relatives were staying. The Department of External Affairs raised part of the travel costs from a private source through its own channels.

It will be clear from the above that the Canadian Embassy and the Department of External Affairs exerted continuous efforts to persuade the Cuban authorities to release Mr. Lippert on humanitarian grounds and it is a matter of regret that the Government of Cuba did not feel itself able to respond to such requests until this year. On the other hand, it must be recognized that Mr. Lippert signed a written confession the day after his arrest and was tried and convicted in an open trial held under the provisions of Cuban law. While the Canadian Government, through the Department of External Affairs, exerts every effort to protect and assist Canadian citizens who are accused or convicted of breaking the laws of other countries, it does not claim, much less enjoy, any extra-territorial rights in other countries. Canadian citizens who violate the laws of other countries must expect to be dealt with in accordance with those laws, just as foreign nationals who violate the laws of Canada while in this country must expect to be dealt with as the laws of Canada provide. All that the Government can do in such cases is to appeal for leniency or clemency on humanitarian grounds, arrange for appropriate consular visits, etc., and ensure that Canadians in violation of foreign laws are treated no less fairly than the nationals of other nations or citizens of the country concerned would be treated, all of which was done on behalf of Mr. Lippert during his arrest, trial, conviction and imprisonment in Cuba.