

mont, Suzanne Blais-Grenier, to present a petition on their behalf requesting Canada to denounce General Namphy's regime in Haiti (*Hansard*, December 16).

Mr. Clark responded favorably to a suggestion by Bill Blaikie, (NDP, Winnipeg—Birds Hill) that an all-party delegation be established to visit Haiti. The foreign minister outlined two objectives which the Canadian government wanted to achieve with regard to the Haitian people. The first was to encourage democracy in Haiti and the second to continue to help the most deprived people in our hemisphere (*Hansard*, January 26).

Political unrest in Haiti prompted the External Affairs Department in Canada to advise travellers to avoid visiting Haiti "unless there are compelling reasons to do so" (*The Mail Star*, January 5), but Canada categorically renounced any participation in any military intervention in Haiti regardless of the turnout in Sunday's (January 17) elections. Marc Lortie, the Prime Minister's Press Secretary, said that Mr. Mulroney only wanted "to send a signal that if things repeat themselves, Canada will not remain indifferent" (*Toronto Star*, January 14).

In the prevailing atmosphere of tense relations with Haiti, Secretary of State Joe Clark was quoted in a *CP Wire* story of January 18 that Canada would not accept the January 17 election results in Haiti and would review its relations with the troubled Caribbean nation. Mr. Clark, according to the press story, added that the Haitian people had made their own very clear statement about the election process with a very low turnout at the polls and that the aspirations of the Haitians had been frustrated. More than 90 percent of eligible voters snubbed the elections organized by the military junta and opposition candidates refused to participate. (See Human Rights and Aid, Policy section, in this issue).

India

Detention of Canadian

A Canadian was arrested and charged with collecting about \$300,000 from Punjabi businessmen and distributing it to Sikh separatists in India.

While in the custody of Indian police, he suffered "excruciating pain" under torture, his lawyer charged in New Delhi, according to a *Globe & Mail* report on December 2. "Police simply bashed the daylight out of Balkar Singh for five days after his arrest in November," a senior lawyer at the New Delhi firm of Sodhi & Co. was reported claiming in the newspaper account. "With the kind of torture he suffered, you could make any man admit to anything," the lawyer was reported having told the *Globe & Mail* correspondent. Canada lodged a formal protest with India alleging mistreatment and possible torture of the 40-year-old Canadian Sikh from Toronto. India's foreign affairs spokesman said that he was "not familiar with the case," and promised an official reaction later in the week. In continuing its

New Delhi-based correspondent's report, Balkar Singh, who had been in police custody since November 1, told a 3-man team of Canadian High Commission officials that he was tortured. A Canadian doctor at the meeting was not permitted to examine him, but apparently saw enough to be convinced. "From what he could see, it would support the claim," a High Commission spokesman said. "Just from observation, there were signs that he was physically mistreated." The official Canadian protest included a request that Balkar Singh be given an immediate medical examination and appropriate treatment. The detainee's lawyer said Balkar Singh was arrested "because he is Canadian and they were looking for a foreign link. They use these arrests to get your government to crack down on the Sikh community in Canada. They have dreamed up this whole drama for that purpose" (*Globe & Mail*, December 2).

In a most graphic manner, Progressive Conservative MP Paul McCrossan (York—Scarborough) described to the House of Commons the treatment of Balkar Singh since his arrest in India. Mr. McCrossan reported that the prisoner was "first hamstrung from the ceiling, then someone sat between his legs and started jumping, using him as a swing. Following this, electric shocks were applied to his sexual organ, armpits and head. His legs were then forced to virtually 180 degrees. He was then beaten on the stomach and on the soles of his feet and to this day he cannot walk." Secretary of State Joe Clark undertook to secure consular access to Balkar Singh (*Hansard*, January 22).

Earlier, India and Canada provided entirely different descriptions of the condition of Balkar Singh, held under India's Anti-Terrorist laws. Shashi Tripathi, spokesperson for the Indian High Commission in Ottawa, in speaking with the *Globe & Mail* as reported on January 20, said that reports of torture were unfounded. Mrs. Tripathi also said Indian officials had no record of Canada's having made a formal protest over allegations of torture. A Canadian official brought allegations of mistreatment to the attention of the authorities but did not lodge a protest, she said. Earlier in the week, a spokesman for the Department of External Affairs said Canada had lodged a protest after Canadian consular officials in India were allowed to visit Balkar Singh in prison. The Canadian spokesman reiterated, according to the *Globe & Mail* on December 2, that Canada did lodge a protest with the Indian government on November 27 and was still waiting for India to respond to its request for an immediate medical examination.

Canada lodged a second, more forceful diplomatic protest, and External Affairs Minister Joe Clark told the Commons that he had summoned the Indian High Commissioner that morning to redouble the protest. Mr. Clark also indicated that the Canadian government was not impressed with the effect of the extradition treaty it signed earlier this year with India, in which both governments agreed to respect each other's laws on the treatment of prisoners (*Toronto Star*, December 4).

While Canadian parliamentarians were calling for access to Canadians in Indian jails, the Indian government requested access to Indian nationals in Canadian jails. However, sixteen of the seventeen Indian citizens in Canadian jails did not want to see Indian government officials, the *Globe & Mail* reported on January 20.