

last December. This resolution recognized the peaceful progress that had been made towards the re-establishment of a representative and pluralist democracy, and welcomed the improvement of the human rights situation in Chile. However, the resolution also expressed its concern over the persistence of human rights violations, and stressed the need for changes in national legal institutions to further protect human rights. Of specific concern to the Canadian government, a concern also reflected in the UN resolution, was the decision of the Chilean government not to cooperate this year with the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Chile.

CANADIAN POSITION:

The Canadian government recognizes that the peaceful return to democracy in Chile is an essential element for improved human rights. Also key to safeguarding human rights over the long term is an independent and objective judiciary. Canada has consistently supported the cause of human rights in Chile, and has used all appropriate avenues to bring Canadian support for these rights to the attention of the Chilean Government. It has supported UN resolutions on human rights in Chile, and has also taken specific initiatives. One of these initiatives occurred in October when the Canadian Government filed objections to reservations made by Chile at the time of its ratification of the UN Convention against Torture (September, 1988).