

Accepted in part

In exercising their responsibilities for evaluating human rights throughout the world, the Department of External Affairs and CIDA are conscious of the interest and concerns of many Canadians. The Government is committed to holding close, effective consultations on human rights matters with Canadian non-governmental organizations, institutions and groups.

The Government undertakes to respond to, and provide comments on, human rights issues in the course of appearances before the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade and the Standing Committee on Human Rights, by the Secretary of State for External Affairs and/or the Minister for External Relations. The Government does not believe that annual reports to Parliament, in which concrete cases and situations are evaluated and judgments are drawn, would serve the foreign policy interests of Canada. The experiences of other countries, as well as Canada's experience in limited cases, indicate that such reporting procedures become in themselves an object of criticism and contention which compromise our ability for effective action by way of normal diplomatic channels. The Government recognizes, however, the important role played by Parliament, particularly by the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade and the Standing Committee on Human Rights, in reviewing and examining Canadian foreign policy, including Canada's development assistance programs.

RECOMMENDATION

3.3 The Committee recommends:

- i) That countries deemed to be "human rights negative" be automatically declared ineligible to receive direct government-to-government assistance;

Accepted in principle

As the Government stated in its response to the report of the Special Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons: "The government states that the international promotion of human rights is a fundamental and integral part of Canada's foreign policy. In developing the overall thrust of its foreign policy as well as implementing it, the government takes into consideration the fundamental criterion of systematic, gross and