

examples of human rights violations which had taken place in that country and declared:

The Afghanistan tragedy is one of the most difficult and gloomy realities of contemporary international politics. When you look at it, year over year, it presents an unbroken facade of intractability.⁵

Speaking on the same day in Vienna, at the Conference on Security and Confidence-Building Measures in Europe, Mr. Clark emphasized once again that several of the countries attending the conference "had failed to respect a fair number of the undertakings which they had made at Helsinki and Madrid" and that in some cases the situation had deteriorated since 1975. Mr. Clark believed that countries must take practical steps to give a clear indication of their intention to honour these undertakings and that this was an essential condition if the Vienna meeting were to have any success in re-establishing an atmosphere of confidence.⁶

The Government's response to the report of the Special Joint Committee on Canada's International Relations was made public in December 1986; the report, had been tabled in the Commons on 26 June 1986. The Government indicated its willingness to help developing countries establish their own democratic institutions and set up machinery to promote respect for human rights, and stated its support for the establishment of an International Institute of Human Rights and Democratic Development. Canada's development assistance policy would continue to take account of gross violations of human rights but the government did not wish to give undue weight to human rights violations where these did not fundamentally jeopardize the delivery of assistance to those most in need.⁷

⁵ DEA, Statement and Speeches, 5 Nov. 1986. p. 5.

⁶ DEA, Statement and Speeches, 5 Nov. 1986.

⁷ Canada's International Relations, Dec. 1986, p. 25.