

Introduction

This publication contains extracts from recent Parliamentary and Government reports which address the question of human rights and Canadian foreign policy. Canadian interest in international human rights issues is of long standing, and has been reflected in the work undertaken in the preparation of the enclosed five documents, which cover the period between the report of the Special Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons on Canada's International Relations in June, 1986, and the publication of the new development assistance strategy, Sharing our Future, in March, 1988.

As the Government Response to the Report of the Special Joint Committee pointed out, "concern for the fundamental rights of individuals and groups is intrinsic to Canadian society and Canada's historical heritage. In the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and in the provincial human rights statutes, Canadians have set for themselves high standards of human rights.... For these reasons, human rights are and will remain a fundamental, integral part of Canadian foreign policy." The five documents included in this publication discuss a broad range of issues related to human rights and Canadian foreign policy and their implications.