

effective in either persuading or empowering a particular government to respect the rights of its people. (p. 2)

Our experience is that in situations where torture and disappearances are commonplace, even the most enlightened investor can be drawn into situations where the enterprise undermines the rights of victims or may even strengthen the capacity of the violator regime to maintain its grip on the country. (p. 8)

In situations where human rights violations are extreme, it is essential that government lend neither active nor passive support to private sector economic activity... The government needs to withhold the use of public funds in support of trade with such regimes. (p. 9)

The submission from the Canadian Council of Churches included recommendations, among them several aimed at Crown agencies engaged in trade support:

- 3.1 The Export Development Corporation ... should be required to establish social responsibility guidelines, a code of conduct and monitoring instruments to assist in assessing the Corporation's compliance with Canada's human rights commitments...
- 4.3 The Export Development Corporation should withhold financial support facilities for trade with countries that engage in a consistent pattern of gross and systematic violations of human rights...

During the cycle of external relations reviews of the latter 1980s, the issue of human rights' conditionality for trade was not directly tackled.⁽¹⁹⁾ Our Sub-Committee will place this issue squarely on the national public agenda during its autumn 1990 hearings.

A problem that has received closer scrutiny, but which warrants renewed evaluation, is the fear that official support of some commercial relations may in fact foster human rights violations. Exportation of equipment with military uses that can assist in suppressing the population of the importing country is the best-known example. The government has revised its export control practices in recent years, but we are not convinced that enough real changes have been made.

The Winegard Committee recommended that military exports from Canada be prohibited to any country "declared ineligible for government-to-government aid on human rights grounds."⁽²⁰⁾ The Canadian government indicated only that it would continue "to control closely the export of military goods and technology" to regimes that are serious human rights violators, in keeping with its new guidelines of September 1986.⁽²¹⁾ Having concluded that Canada's export control system is not effective as an instrument to foster respect for human rights, and is not designed to act as one,⁽²²⁾ a Sub-Committee witness reiterated his plea that Canada prohibit the transfer of military commodities to countries known persistently and seriously to violate the human rights of their citizens.⁽²³⁾