

cannot impose our standards on the world, but we can act to seek respect for the standards the United Nations has established, and the obligations freely entered into in the Helsinki Accord." Clark added:

We are increasingly factoring human rights consideration into our aid and development policies, while taking care not to penalize the very people whose human rights are being abused.²

A news release issued by the Canadian Government on 13 November announced Ottawa's intention to establish a centre for international cooperation for the promotion of human rights and the development and strengthening of democratic institutions. Its primary focus will be co-operation between Canada and developing countries, and it will be known as the "International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development".³

On 9 December, Mr. Joe Clark announced the election of a Canadian, professor Peter Burns, to the United Nations Committee Against Torture, under the provisions of the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Since last summer, certain aspects of Canada's policy regarding human rights have been controversial. First, Bills C-55 and C-84, debated in Parliament and still pending Senate approval, have raised questions in the country. They aim to bring major changes to the immigration laws by making requests for political asylum subject to tighter control. Second, following a six-year ban, Ottawa renewed its economic assistance to Guatemala in the fall of 1987. This reversal was due to Guatemala's

² DEA, Statement 87/44, 26 August 1987.

³ Government of Canada, News Release, 13 November 1987.