

governments abuse human rights but rather to change behaviour and to induce governments to respect their peoples' rights. Responses to specific situations require careful balancing of many considerations, above all the effectiveness of the means of influence at our disposal.

Canadian efforts to support human rights will rely on a variety of means, including dialogue and co-ordinated efforts through multilateral fora.

Development assistance is a constructive way to address human rights, democracy and governance issues. Canada will continue to work with a broad range of partners, including governments, NGOs, and multilateral organizations to promote our objectives. Assistance will support such activities as peace and reconciliation initiatives, human rights education, widening access to legal remedies, strengthening legislatures and judicial systems and increasing the capacity of organizations and other representatives of civil society to participate fully and effectively in decision-making in their countries.

High profile aid and trade measures may play a role in responding to gross, systematic, and persistent violations of internationally agreed human rights standards. Canadian assistance, for example, must not reward or give the impression of rewarding such government behaviour. This can be done in a number of ways, as the Committee has suggested. The Government will consider its actions on a case-by-case basis. In addition, trade in sensitive goods, such as military exports, must not be allowed to bolster repression. Canadian leadership in this area is demonstrated by our controls on the export of military goods, which are among the most restrictive of Western countries. These controls deny export permits when, among other reasons, the goods are destined to a country where they may be used to abuse human rights or where there are actual or imminent hostilities.

Punitive bilateral action in isolation from other countries, however, usually presents the least effective means of achieving results. In the case of trade, it may hurt Canada more than it will change the behaviour of offending governments. Multilateral action, based on international standards and procedures, afford both legitimacy and increased leverage. In this connection, it is only very rarely the case that promoting human rights and pursuing trade are mutually exclusive objectives. Indeed, trade and growing economic prosperity often nurture a more open society. Experience points to the effectiveness of exposing closed countries to the international community and its values in terms of increasing pressure for the respect of human rights. Nevertheless, in extreme cases and where deemed effective, multilaterally-agreed trade sanctions may play a role in applying pressure to change egregious behaviour, as was the case in South Africa. Canada is prepared to work hard on consensus multilateral approaches.

Canada will continue to lead on human rights issues at the UN, the OSCE, Commonwealth, la Francophonie, and the OAS. These fora often provide the most effective means for influencing governments. At the IFIs and in various aid donor groups, Canada will also emphasize the need to consider a recipient's commitment to good governance. In particular,