

Several weeks later, in an address to the Canadian Human Rights Foundation, Mr. Clark suggested that the Government is striving to develop "a universal policy of support for human rights, with special attention focussed on those human rights situations where our standing is strongest and the impact of our involvement is likely to be the greatest." Mr. Clark sounded a note of caution, however, on the use of sanctions to project Canada's human rights policy.²

At the closing session of the Experts Meeting on Human Contacts of the CSCE in Berne on 26 May 1986, the Canadian delegation expressed its disappointment with adherence to certain human rights provisions in the Helsinki Final Act:

We do not really lack documents of standards of performance...what we lack is compliance by certain signatory States. Our more profound disappointment stems from the fact that our bilateral talks, our formal discussions in our meetings, and, finally, our negotiations, have failed to reveal any new willingness by some States to make real, substantial headway in facilitating freer movement and contacts and the resolution of humanitarian cases.³

Current Canadian Position

Speaking to the 41st Session of the UN General Assembly, on 24 September 1986, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Joe Clark, pointed out that several members of the United Nations were violating the most basic human rights. He cited Afghanistan and South Africa as examples of this.⁴ The strongest statement on Afghanistan was made, however, on 5 November by Canada's Permanent Representative to the UN Stephen Lewis, who gave various

² DEA, Statement, 86/20, 26 Mar. 1986.

³ DEA, Statement, 26 May 1986.

⁴ DEA, Statements and Speeches, 24 Sept. 1986.