

Canada Weekly

Volume 5, No. 14

April 6, 1977



Ottawa, Canada.

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The Canadian view of the complex issue of human rights

Addressing a seminar on human rights sponsored by the Canadian Council of Churches and the Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops, held on March 16 in Ottawa, Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson was at pains to emphasize the need for "delicacy and balanced judgment" in deciding what action to take in response to individual instances of the violation of human rights.

The text of Mr. Jamieson's speech follows:

* * * *

Canada has already established a reasonably good record in international human-rights-oriented activities over the years.

Unfortunately, it seems that, in this struggle, while there have indeed been developments that are encouraging (no major wars for over 30 years, a measurable improvement in international awareness of the interdependence of the world community, a heartening increase in developmental-assistance flows from richer to poorer nations, an apparent increase in the enjoyment of personal liberties even within the restrictive regimes of Eastern Europe), nevertheless there still exist too many gross violations of human rights in many countries, violations that are naturally a cause of concern to Canadians and that all of us would like to be able to rectify or at least ameliorate in one fashion or another. How Canada should react to such situations, what considerations should guide us, what constraints affect us, will be the theme of my talk this evening.

Context of international action

I should like to stress at the outset that there is a fundamental difference — which, it seems, is not always readily appreciated — between our domestic activities in the human rights field and the action that Canada can take internationally. The difference between the domestic and international spheres of action is twofold: the first is the problem of *standards*; the second is the question of enforcement *machinery*.

We in countries of Western traditions too frequently assume that those standards of conduct and behaviour towards our fellow man are perceived as having equal validity by other governments.

But the perspective of other countries is, in fact, often different, partly because they may not be Western or democratic in background, or partly because their economic situations are vastly different from ours. Western democracies traditionally accord priority to civil and political rights, while Third World countries often place their pressing economic needs ahead of human rights issues. It may seem callous or insensitive to Canadians, but we are told regularly in international bodies that a majority of underdeveloped states are more concerned with alleviating starvation and promoting their development and, in so doing, attaching a greater priority to the duties of citizens than to their rights.

Although Canada's approach to international human rights reflects our traditions (the ethics and moral codes of a Western Christian society), our approach is only one of many, and, I should add, not an approach that enjoys majority support internationally. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is not a binding legal instrument, and other covenants and conventions that may have enforcement provisions are binding only upon their signatories. Even when a state accedes to a convention or signs an agreement, it does not necessarily mean that it accepts its obligations immediately. Not all the parties who signed the Helsinki Final Act feel bound to accept its provisions at once; rather, it is regarded as a long-term program towards which participants should strive.

Moreover, even when states disregard their obligations, there is frequently little that can be done to urge compliance. The UN Commission on Human Rights has a fairly cumbersome pro-

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cedure for dealing with gross and persistent violations of human rights, while other bodies, like the new Human Rights Committee, on which there is a Canadian, and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, consist of independent experts serving in their personal capacities. The Canadian Government as such, can, therefore, take no official action in these bodies.

In the absence of consensus and of effective enforcement machinery at the international level, therefore, we have been forced to rely upon other methods, essentially political and diplomatic, in which to convey to other governments our concerns about human rights. Canada can use multilateral bodies, such as the Commission on Human Rights, to make known our attitude towards events in other countries; at such meetings, we can vote on resolutions varying in tone and substance from mild requests for information to denunciations and condemnations.

Multilateral bodies may impose sanctions dealing with trade, aid or trade in specific types of goods; such sanctions may be legally binding (as are Security Council sanctions) or voluntary (as are resolutions of the General Assembly). States may, of course, also impose sanctions unilaterally or jointly with other states, by curtailing aid, ending trade relations, or by going as far as suspending diplomatic relations. We can also make direct representations on a bilateral basis; such representations may range from expressions of concern, to requests for redress of specific grievances, to formal protests.

But there are no firm and fixed rules for raising and discussing what are essentially the domestic concerns of other states; some countries simply refuse categorically to permit any exchange of views. Canadians are justifiably indignant at flagrant abuses of the fundamental rights of the individual in Uganda, South Africa and in many other countries in Eastern Europe, Latin America and elsewhere. Moral indignation alone, however, will not establish universal standards of human rights, or ensure the creation of machinery to enforce such rights.

Courses of action

My problem, as SSEA, goes one step further: it is to find, amid the differing

interests, attitudes and traditions of other states, a way of expressing Canadian concerns, of alleviating conditions we find deplorable, and of solving the largely anonymous individual cases in which the Canadian interest is strong and persistent.

When we approach the issue of raising human rights questions with other countries, we generally consider two criteria in arriving at a course of action: the first is, what action will likely be *effective*; the second is, whether an action would be *appropriate*; whether our action, if taken, will be effective has to be subject to balanced and careful examination.

When we have cordial relations with states, for example, low-key, private discussions are demonstrably more likely to resolve outstanding individual difficulties, and, in turn, create the atmosphere for the additional reconciliation of problems of concern to Canadians. When relations are poor, and progress on human rights issues is negligible, it may be necessary to make our case public, even though public pressure can as often contribute to a hardening of attitudes as it may to a meeting of minds.

The difference between "public" and "private" diplomacy is not always appreciated by Canadians. Public support for dissidents in the Soviet Union may, for example, be of help to their cause, for it provides the very publicity that in turn prevents Soviet authorities from implementing more repressive measures. Just last month, for instance, it was decided to convey to the Government of the Soviet Union the disappointment and deep concern of the Canadian people at the arrest of certain prominent Soviet citizens who had been speaking out on the question of human rights.

Similarly, I spoke in the House of Commons just the other day on the human rights climate in Uganda. Our concerns in this area were made quite clear to the Government of Uganda, and at the recently-concluded session of the UN Commission on Human Rights. With respect to Uganda, let me say this: there is no question that the Ugandan Government is engaged in the systematic killing of those who are thought to be in opposition to it. Yet the international community has taken no action. The Commission on Human Rights was eventually willing to de-

vote a great deal of its time in open session expressing its "profound indignation" at events in Chile, but was not prepared to voice even the mildest public criticism of the situation in Uganda. The Canadian delegation introduced a resolution urging the Ugandan authorities to accept an impartial, international investigation. This was a reasonable position, consistent not only with previous Canadian action, but also with accepted international practice, which requires respect for national sovereignty. But so great was the opposition to our resolution that we were forced to allow it to stand without vote rather than have it summarily rejected in secret session, where, under the rules of the Commission, none of the proceedings can be reported.

Double standard exists

I might add that many of the same countries that protected Uganda from any meaningful criticism in the UN Commission on Human Rights, and refused to associate themselves with a U.S. resolution on Soviet dissidents, are loud in defence of human rights elsewhere. A double standard in the human rights field is an unhappy fact of international life. For its part, the Canadian Government will refuse to accept the conclusion of the Commission that it has discharged its responsibilities satisfactorily. We intend to continue to press, at the UN and in other bodies, for meaningful and concrete action to bring the Government of Uganda — among others that have persistently violated the international standards of behaviour in human rights — to observe the obligations they have freely accepted.

But public discussion of particular family-reunion cases in Eastern Europe, on the other hand, could have severe repercussions, because the people concerned do not have the protection afforded by the international spotlight, and would have no recourse if Canadian efforts to secure reunion in Canada were blocked as result of public discussion. Here we have opted for "private" diplomacy, and I am happy to report that, in most countries of Eastern Europe, we have seen a marked increase in the number of reunited families.

Pressure to speak out is always

(Continued on P. 7)

Canada's relief to Lebanon approaches \$5 million

A cash contribution of \$350,000 for relief to victims of the civil war in Lebanon was made by Canada on March 25, bringing the value of Canadian aid to Lebanon since 1975 to more than \$4,900,000.

In his Ottawa office, Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson presented a cheque for \$250,000 to J.G.M. Clark, president of the Canadian Red Cross Society, for remittance to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva (ICRC). At the same time, in New York, the Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations, William Barton, presented a cheque for \$100,000 to Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the UN, for his "Appeal-for-Lebanon."

The whole \$350,000 contribution was drawn from the funds of the Canadian International Development Agency.

Canadian cash donations to Lebanon through the ICRC now total \$1 million. "The ICRC has provided the most effective route to date in supplying emergency relief in a non-discriminatory manner where it has been needed most," Mr. Jamieson declared.

Besides the cash donations totalling \$1,100,000, the Canadian Government has, since 1975, provided food aid to Lebanon worth more than \$3.6 million. This includes 9,135 metric tons of wheat, 180 metric tons of canned beef and 1,353 metric tons of rapeseed oil, which were provided to the World Food Program, as well as 740 metric tons of milk-powder donated by Canada to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Donations from the Canadian Red Cross Society, the government of British Columbia and the UNICEF Canada Committee have brought the total to nearly \$5 million. "These contributions reflect Canada's continuing concern for the plight of ordinary men, women and children caught up in the Lebanese conflict," Mr. Jamieson said.

Canada to fund Ghana dam

Canada has agreed to provide Ghana with a \$35-million loan to help it meet its growing energy requirements, Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson announced recently.

The Canadian funds, drawn from allocations of the Canadian International Development Agency, will be used for part of the cost of building the Kpong hydroelectric dam and for consultant services. The cost of the project is estimated at \$230 million. It will take five years to complete.

The new project will be located on the Volta River some miles downstream from another power project built with Canada's help — the Akosombo Dam. Built in the early 1960s, the dam is the main source of power for this West African country.

Ghana relies almost entirely on hydroelectric power, which most economically meets its energy requirements. The relatively low-cost power is vital to the country's efforts to improve its economic performance.

Later this year, construction will begin on an earth-filled dam and headpond dikes, and on other features such as a concrete control spillway, an intake structure, a power-house and a transmission-line.

Canadian engineers and other professionals will be involved in various phases of the project, and Canadian suppliers will provide some of the necessary equipment.

New U.S.-Canada radio pact

By exchange of letters between the United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Canada's Department of Communications (DOC), an interim arrangement has been concluded to allow licensing of U.S. land-mobile systems in the 806 to 890 MHz band in the United States within 250 miles of the border with Canada.

Terms of the interim arrangement had been developed by a group from the DOC and the FCC. This working group has been exploring technical options for sharing the use of the frequencies in this particular band by the two countries along their border.

In Canada, the 806 to 890 MHz band is allocated for UHF (ultra-high frequency) TV broadcasting. In the U.S., this band is allocated to the land-mobile service.

The interim arrangement allows the licensing of U.S. land-mobile radio stations in the vicinity of the border while fully protecting Canadian UHF-TV assignments in the band and pre-

serving Canadian options for possible alternative uses of some or all of these frequencies.

The criteria set out in the interim arrangement to be used by the FCC in authorizing the establishment of U.S. land-mobile stations in the U.S. in the vicinity of the Canada-U.S. border are as follows:

(1) Base stations will not be authorized in areas closer than 100 miles from the U.S.-Canada border.

(2) Within the zone 100 miles to 125 miles from the border, base-stations will be authorized only after specific arrangements have been made between the FCC and the Department of Communications for the specific geographic area.

(3) Within the zone 125 miles to 145 miles from the border, base-stations may be authorized with the maximum of 500 watts ERP at 500 feet effective antenna-height or the equivalent.

(4) Beyond 145 miles from the border, base-stations may be authorized with the power and antenna-heights permitted by the FCC rules (1,000 watts ERP at 1,000 feet effective antenna-height for "urban conventional" and "trunked" stations, and 500 watts ERP at 500 feet effective antenna-height, or the equivalent, for "suburban conventional" stations).

(5) Mobile stations will be authorized to operate at distances of 90 miles or more from the border. The maximum effective radiated power (ERP) for mobile units operating within the zone between 90 and 145 miles from the border must not exceed 200 watts. Land-mobile systems will normally employ a duplex channelling plan so as to prevent mobile-to-mobile operations less than 90 miles from the border.

(6) Mobile units operating further than 145 miles from the border will be authorized to operate with powers prescribed by the FCC rules.

(7) All land-mobile stations within 250 miles from the border will be authorized by the FCC on condition that they cause no harmful interference to Canadian television stations operating in the 806 to 890 MHz band. American land-mobile stations will not be afforded protection from interference originating from Canadian UHF-TV stations.

(8) The FCC will notify the Department of Communications of land-mobile radio assignments in the band within

250 miles of the border.

The interim arrangement will be reviewed, and, if necessary, its terms amended in approximately 12 months after the results of a joint study concerning anomalous radio-wave propagation in the border areas are available.

Typing tool for the handicapped

A communication device called OCCUR (Optically-Controlled Communication Unit for Rehabilitation) was developed some time ago in the Medical Engineering Section of the Division of Electrical Engineering of the National Research Council. This equipment enables a patient without hand-function to type. The patient wears a light-beam projector on a head-band or eyeglass frame. The beam is aimed at an array of symbols. When it is held on a particular symbol for one second, it is automatically typed.

This equipment has been sent to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for evaluation by a team of experts. The subject will be an adult quadriplegic who cannot use her arms or hands, but has reasonably good control of her head movements. She is said to be anxious to write, and to be an ideal user of the OCCUR. The MIT group, including engineers, physicians and therapists, will report its decision after an extended test with the patient.

Surplus wood becomes energy

Methanol (wood alcohol) to help power automobiles and other forms of equipment could be produced in large quantities from Canada's surplus forest materials, according to a preliminary report released recently by federal Fisheries and Environment Minister Roméo LeBlanc. Entitled *An Economic Pre-feasibility Study: Large-Scale Methanol Fuel Production from Surplus Canadian Forest Biomass*, the document was prepared by InterGroup Consulting Economists Ltd. of Winnipeg for the Environmental Management Service of Fisheries and Environment Canada.

The report shows that, with favourable tax treatment, methanol could now be manufactured profitably at a price

competitive with that of gasoline.

The "surplus forest biomass" referred to in the report includes trees available as part of the annual allowable cut from Canada's forests but not expected to be used by the year 2000. It also includes species regarded as unsuitable for conventional forestry operations. Wood residues, such as slash from harvesting, bark and sawdust, which are normally viewed as wastes by the industry, are also suitable for methanol production.

Methanol can be used alone or as a blend with gasoline. Unblended, it would require basic-design changes in motors, but in blends of up to 20 per cent only minor, inexpensive alterations are necessary.

On the basis of a blend of 15 percent methanol with 85 percent gasoline, the report estimates that there is more than sufficient surplus forest material available to meet Canada's projected motor-fuel requirements at the end of this century.

Pollution reduced

The blended fuel promises a substantial reduction in pollutant emission — an environmental aspect seen as a key additional reason for phasing methanol into the present liquid-fuel systems.

InterGroup foresees prospects in methanol production for a major new Canadian industry that could bring substantial regional development in many rural areas and up to 40,000 new jobs. The report indicates that production of 5 billion gallons of methanol annually is feasible. This would lead to an \$800-million annual saving in foreign-exchange expenditures — funds that would normally be required for petroleum purchases from abroad.

Methanol, produced from renewable resources, could be expected to sustain supplies of liquid fuels over the long haul, with consequent lessening of pressures on non-renewable fossil fuels.

Besides indicating the potential of methanol for increasing Canadian energy security and self-reliance, the report suggests that a domestic methanol industry could benefit forest-management. The report further indicates that a methanol industry would enable provinces to produce more of their own energy.

Commonwealth expedition

On February 1, a group of over 100 Canadians left Vancouver on the first leg of the Commonwealth Expedition, a 30,000-mile journey across Asia. Known as "Comex 8", this eighth expedition is designed to achieve, "through the one-to-one contact of ordinary citizens, some progress...toward a more harmonious world." The Comex organization, based in London, England, unabashedly admits that its aims are idealistic. However, in the words of its officials: "Comex has never claimed to succeed, only to try. Each expedition improves a little."

Comex sees its impact primarily in its size. In addition to seven contingents from various parts of Britain, overseas contingents have joined from Canada, India and Singapore. In seven previous expeditions over ten years, more than 1,600 men and women have participated, representing the same Commonwealth nations that are again participating this year.

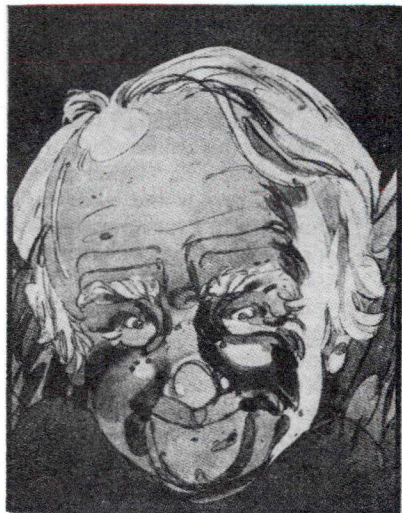
The Canadian group has received assistance from several quarters. Through the kindness of the Toronto Transit Commission, 12 volunteer bus-drivers from the Metro Toronto area, who underwent a special training program in the handling of heavy vehicles before departure, will be driving the group's 12 silver buses. Canadian companies have made donations of supplies to Comex. On their first night in Europe, the travelers stayed at the Canadian Forces Base at Lahr, Germany.

Comex 8 will follow roughly the same route as the first Comex expedition: through Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan, as far as Karnatka and the Nilgiri Hills, in South India. If past journeys are any indication, the Canadian group will find itself answering questions about Canada; their participation in Comex 8 will itself be an answer as to how ordinary Canadians feel about their Commonwealth friends and neighbours.

All contingents underwent special training from February 2 to 12. The expedition itself will last until June 3, when the group will return to London to participate in a special service at Wells Cathedral in Glastonbury and other events.

News of the arts

Popular humorist joins the majority



Gregory Clark, a newspaper writer whose inspired common touch brought laughter to several generations of Canadians, died recently in Toronto at the age of 85. Clark's superbly-told anecdotes about his family and friends, their lives and adventures, appeared in *Weekend Magazine*, a syndicated section carried by many Canadian papers in their Saturday editions. Frank Lowe, editor of the magazine from 1969 to 1975, remembers Clark as a craftsman whose articles "read smoothly and effortlessly because Greg put a prodigious amount of work and thought into them." He also recalls that, though Clark never missed a deadline, "he never delivered an article until

the very last moment — until the editor was chewing his nail." "When I asked him about this," Love says, "he told me that his job was to write, while the editor's job was to worry. And he always wanted to be helpful." Clark's readers were unabashedly in love with him and told him so in thousands of letters to the magazine. His weekly story was the mainstay of *Weekend* for many years. When age forced him to slow down, Clark continued to write a piece every six weeks; these stories are considered by many to be among the best he ever wrote.



Second Canada Council grant to D.C. Scott memorialist

Dr. Robert McDougall of the English Department of Carleton University in Ottawa recently received a second grant from the Canada Council to enable him to complete his research on the life and times of the Ottawa poet Duncan Campbell Scott. Dr. McDougall, a specialist in Canadian literature and founding director of Carleton's Institute of Canadian Studies, has been awarded a grant of \$19,000 for the collection and cataloguing of Scott's correspondence. "I don't expect to uncover anything very startling about Scott himself," admits Professor McDougall, "but he has never been the subject of a full-length

study and there is much to know about his work and extraordinary range of interests. Beyond Scott, I hope to fill in some of the blanks in our knowledge of the literary culture of the country and of how people lived, worked and thought in Scott's day."

Duncan Campbell Scott, who lived from 1862 to 1947 and published seven volumes of poetry and two of short stories, as well as several other works, was Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs for some 20 years. During his long life, Scott kept up a voluminous correspondence with such Canadian writers, artists and scholars as Bliss Carman, Lorne Pierce, Pelham Edgar, W.D. Lighthall, Edmund Morris, Clarence Gagnon and Emily Carr. His friends abroad included John Mase-

New programs support dance-teaching, design and administration

The Canada Council has established three new programs that will provide funds to dance companies to further the training of administrators for professional groups, improve Canadian dance-teaching standards, and increase the collaboration of dance companies with visual artists in the designing of sets and costumes.

The new guest-teachers program is intended to bring private teachers and students — particularly those isolated from the principal dance centres — into closer contact with professional teachers. Small grants, awarded on a competitive basis, will be provided to dance-schools and organizations wishing to invite professional teachers from other parts of the country to give classes in their communities. The Council will cover the guest-teachers' return travel by air and will contribute up to \$50 a day towards their remuneration. Host organizations will be responsible for all other costs, such as food and lodging.

A second program, of grants to commission works by Canadian visual artists, is intended to encourage professional dance companies to commission original sets and costumes. Such companies may receive up to \$10,000 to cover an artist's fee and production costs. (This parallels a program offered by the Council's Music Division under which dance companies may commission works by Canadian composers.) In this way, the Council hopes to encourage choreographers to form working partnerships with visual artists, and expects such collaboration to be mutually helpful and professionally stimulating.

Under the third program, the Council will offer each year two grants for training in administration, worth up to \$8,000 each (plus travel and project costs), to persons already working with professional dance companies in an administrative capacity and intending to return to the same groups after their training.

field, Rupert Brooke, Alfred Noyes, J.C. Squire and Vilhjalmur Stefansson. Only 250 of his letters have, however, been located.



Mount Logan, in the Yukon Territory, is 19,524 feet high.

Public Archives

Canada's North not all tundra

When Canada's North is mentioned many people conjure up visions of vast stretches of flat tundra with nothing taller than a blade of grass. While this may be true in some areas, the Yukon Territory also contains Canada's highest peaks — Mount Logan, at 19,524, is the highest — and some of the best hiking and climbing mountains in the world.

Monty Alford of Whitehorse (capital of the Yukon Territory), an internationally recognized mountaineer, believes the Yukon peaks offer as much and more than many of the more publicized mountains such as the Andes and Himalayas.

"The St. Elias mountains are definitely mountains of Alpine stature," Alford said. "They are Canada's Himalayas. But they have advantages that even the best locations in the world don't have such as long daylight hours, sparse vegetation around the approaches to the peaks and the fact that the mountains offer rock- as well as ice- and snow-climbing combined."

He said scores of teams of climbers come to the Yukon every year from the United States, Japan and Italy as well as Canada to challenge the rugged peaks of the St. Elias and to take on the less strenuous slopes elsewhere in the Territory.

Tucked up in the northwest corner of Canada, the Yukon is neither barren nor frozen. True, old man Winter, at those northern latitudes, has robbed a couple of weeks from spring and autumn, but summers are warm (up to 30 degrees C) with cool evenings. It's also true that Yukon has some muskeg and tundra, but the territory is predominantly forested mountain country.

Population of the Yukon is some 22,000 (more than half in Whitehorse). The remainder is in smaller communities throughout the 207,000-square-mile area. Its tourism industry, is now valued at \$25 million annually.

Firm to buy New York buildings

Olympia and York Developments Ltd., a privately-owned, Toronto-based real-estate company, has agreed to purchase nine large New York City office buildings from National Kinney Corporation of New York for about \$350 million. Paul Reichmann, executive vice-president of Olympia and York, said his company would pay about \$50 million in cash for the properties and would assume about \$300 million in mortgages. Included in the properties purchased are the ITT and American Brands Buildings on Park Avenue, the Harper and Row Building on East 53rd Street and the J.C. Penney Building on

Sixth Avenue. Also acquired — a 50 percent interest in the Sperry Rand Building on Sixth Avenue and a 51 percent interest in 55 Water Street in downtown Manhattan.

Crawley film wins top travel prize

Canada's Capital has won first prize in the 1977 Travel Film Festival staged annually at Anaheim, California.

The film, a musical romp through the four seasons round the national capital, topped entries in the category for the best foreign travel film from a government agency. It was produced by Crawley Films, Ottawa, for the Ontario Ministry of Industry and Tourism. Pied Piping the viewer from skating on the Rideau Canal to the pageantry of Parliament Hill is the local Ayorama Wind Quintet.

The Ottawa film also won first prize in the 1975 National Canadian Film and Television Association competition. Because of its popularity as a travel film, it is being translated into German and Japanese for distribution in those countries.

Legal checklist published

The National Library of Canada has announced the publication of *Canadian Law Reports*, the first fascicle of *Checklists of Law Reports and Statutes in Canadian Law Libraries*. Data on holdings assembled during the survey of law-library resources in Canada carried out by the Resources Survey Division in 1974-75 are now being compiled and edited for publication; additional fascicles will be published.

This first checklist constitutes both a bibliography and a union list. Holdings of Canadian law reports in more than 60 Canadian law libraries are reported and, in order to make the bibliography as nearly complete as possible, all judicial court reports known to the editors at the time of publication have been included. Added titles have been recorded without holdings.

It is hoped that the checklists will be useful as a location tool for inter-library lending, as a bibliography for reference and research purposes, and as a guide for collections-development.



The Canadian Consul General in Sydney, Australia, W.G. Pybus, and Mrs. Pybus, guests of honour at Australia Day celebrations in Newcastle, New South Wales, participated with

Newcastle's Lord Mayor G. Anderson in the citizenship ceremonies recently. Mr. Pybus (left) and Mr. Anderson congratulate Sam Pillay, a new Australian from India.

Human rights (Continued from P. 2)

great, and it comes mainly from people whose indignation is kindled by what must seem like our official silence and inactivity. Regarding Chile, a country about which I have received a lot of mail recently, Canada has been particularly active with regard to the human rights situation in that country and will continue to be so as long as evidence of violations persists. In addition to speaking and voting on these issues in international forums, we have spoken directly to Chilean representatives. As a concrete indication of the concern of Canada for the human rights violations taking place in Chile, we have authorized 5,360 Chilean refugees to find permanent homes here. Ninety-two former Chilean political prisoners and approximately 200 of their dependents have achieved similar status. Canada's record with regard to promoting the re-growth of human rights in Chile is second to no other nation's and Chilean officials are well aware of this.

We have a responsibility, however, to exercise delicate judgment as to when to "go public" and when to continue

with "quiet diplomacy". The phrase "quiet diplomacy" may seem to some a euphemism for a lack of responsiveness. This simply is not the case. In the proper circumstances, it can accomplish far more in the long run than public appeals that may satisfy an immediate pent-up frustration but cut off prospects for a satisfactory resolution of conflicting views. An illustration of this type of approach is our attitude towards Indonesia. During a visit to Indonesia last year, my predecessor, Mr. MacEachen, took the opportunity of a meeting with Foreign Minister Malik to raise the problem of political prisoners and to express the concern with which a number of Canadians view this issue. Mr. MacEachen noted that some of the detainees have already been released by the Indonesian Government, and expressed the hope that this trend would continue. We have been encouraged that this trend has, in fact, continued since that time.

Importance of ultimate goals

Whether a given course of action will be effective depends, as well, on our

ultimate goals. If we seek to rectify isolated abuses or aberrations in a state's normal performance in the human rights field, the task is generally manageable; but if we seek to alter a firm policy or the fundamental basis of another state's society, the issue is not likely to be resolved, at least easily or quickly. South Africa, for example, has resolutely refused to yield on the *apartheid* question, which is not simply one of that state's peripheral customs but an integral part of its social composition.

The appropriateness of Canadian action is related to our record, principles and traditions. We should not wish to condemn hastily, before the facts are in or before we can reach reasonably firm conclusions after an examination of the available evidence. Similarly, it would not be appropriate to expect other countries to do more than we are prepared to do at home.

The Canadian record, both at home and in international bodies like the Commission on Human Rights, is excellent, and we have a right to be proud of the conditions we enjoy in this country. At the same time, we are not perfect, and we must be vigorous in our efforts to secure the highest possible standards.

As Christians, we must never lose sight of human rights at any time, and must always be willing to convey our concerns to others. The Canadian Government has a right and duty to act that we expect other states to respect, just as we respect their right to approach us on similar issues. At the same time, we have to be prudent. For our actions to be meaningful, they must reflect the genuine concerns of Canadians. This, in turn, means that we cannot be involved to the same degree in every single human rights problem, because there is a danger that a Canadian action would eventually be interpreted as simply yet another empty moral gesture, which other countries could then dismiss.

Seriousness is an obvious consideration. While we cannot ignore any discernible pattern of violations of human rights anywhere in the world, our case will be stronger where the offence is greater and if the weight of Canadian and of world opinion is behind our representation. Thus the determination whether Canadian action is appropriate depends upon a careful assessment of

a number of factors respecting Canada and the other countries concerned.

While stressing our moral considerations, we must also be realistic and recognize the difficulties in drawing a line between human rights and other areas of activity. The suspension of aid is frequently suggested as a response to human rights violations, and it may seem on the surface to be an understandable way for a donor country to react. You will agree with me that we cannot question the need to provide food aid to some impoverished countries. But, in the area of economic aid, let me emphasize the real dilemma we face in attempting to determine what part of, for instance, a project for a cement-plant or an irrigation scheme benefits the people and what part ends up simply serving the aims of a government unresponsive on the question of human rights. This fine line, as I describe it, is hard to draw in practice, and I can only repeat that I have an open mind on this subject. I am prepared to consider possible courses of action available to us if I can be convinced that such action will prove effective.

At the same time, there is a real difficulty in acting on many economic issues. If we go beyond what is called for by international sanctions, where do we then draw the line as matter of policy? If we take unilateral action, and it accomplishes nothing, what have we gained?

We accept international sanctions as the only really meaningful and potentially-effective measures against repressive regimes. Although we receive numerous requests to take action in cases of varied gravity, importance to Canada and humanitarian concern, we must necessarily consider the possible consequences of our action on future cases, in the hope that we can continue to be effective in human rights issues.

Canada Weekly is published by the Information Services Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

Material may be freely reprinted. A credit would be appreciated. Photo sources, if not shown, will be provided on request to (Mrs.) Miki Sheldon, Editor.

Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiario de Canadá.

Ähnliche Ausgaben dieses Informationsblatts erscheinen auch in deutscher Sprache unter dem Titel Profil Kanada.

We have a responsibility, too, to consider the long-term implications of our representations, especially if they give rise to hopes which we cannot fulfil. If, through our actions, we encourage unwarranted expectations, so that the pressures generated by dissidents become intolerable to a given regime, what guarantees can we provide for their safety, or for the stability of their whole societies, in the event of massive upheavals in their states, such as occurred in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968? There are other implications that must be taken into account before determining a course of action. We may have other humanitarian interests — for example, our refugee program in Chile — that we should wish to safeguard by remaining on at least proper if not cordial terms with the other country concerned.

I have spoken frankly this evening

about the problems and the types of considerations which govern our attitude to human rights issues.

As most of you consider human rights a matter of utmost priority, I hope, nevertheless, you will agree that the way in which we seek to deal with human rights violations is delicate and difficult and is subject to numerous considerations.

The question of human rights is one of the most complex issues in foreign policy because it strikes to the root of our traditions and therefore constitutes a potential challenge to other societies whose traditions may essentially be different.

Despite the need for delicacy and balanced judgment, Canada will continue to uphold internationally the course of human rights, in the legitimate hope that we can eventually ameliorate the conditions of our fellow men.

News briefs

- Legislation to make efficiency the key test of whether companies might merge or form monopolies, even if competition suffered as a result, was introduced in the House of Commons recently by the Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister. Mr. Abbott told reporters the proposed legislation was justified because companies "have to operate in an increasingly hostile international environment." This meant, he said, that they might have to band together into larger units to increase production at lower cost.
- The Canadian Armed Forces will employ about 9,000 students this summer as part of the Federal Government's Student Summer Employment Activity Program, Defence Minister Barney Danson announced recently. The Department of National Defence's share of the \$65.9 million project will be \$7,552,000, making it the second-largest departmental contribution to the program. The Department of Manpower and Immigration will spend \$45.9 million. The Forces will provide cadet-training and -activities, community-assistance projects and reserve training, similar to programs operated for the past six years.
- Prime Minister Trudeau said on March 17 that he would bar Quebec

from attending international conferences if provincial officials continued to renounce their ties with the rest of Canada and "behave as though the province has an international personality." Mr. Trudeau said provincial officials could talk about activities in their provinces at international meetings but could not formally represent Canada or bypass federal authorities in dealing with other countries.

■ Significant potential resources of oil and natural gas still exist across Canada, according to two documents tabled in the Commons recently by Energy Minister Alastair Gillespie. The documents said that there was a 90 percent chance that up to 229 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 25 billion barrels of oil would be discovered. Canada now uses about 1.4 trillion cubic feet of gas annually and about 730 million barrels of oil. Mr. Gillespie said later that the country had the potential oil and natural-gas resources it needed to make itself self-reliant in energy, but that the costs of developing the supplies would be high.

■ The Commons has passed legislation ratifying a federal-provincial agreement under which the provinces take over some taxing power from Ottawa and receive increased jurisdiction over health care and higher education.