

Department of External Affairs



Ministère des Affaires extérieures

Canada

OTTAWA, ONTARIO
K1A 0G2

March 15, 1985

Mr. Ted Byrne
AUCE
#202 - Memorial Road
Vancouver, B.C.
V6T 1W5

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A. U. C. E.

Dear Mr. Byrne:

Your letter of November 15, 1984 to the Rt. Honourable Joe Clark concerning human rights in Chile has been passed to me for reply.

We share your concern about the abuse of human rights in Chile, which has taken many forms, including arbitrary arrest, exile and torture. As you may be aware, Canada has been active both in multilateral fora and in our bilateral relations in expressing its concern about the pattern of gross violations of human rights that has occurred in Chile in recent years. In this regard, you may be interested to learn that we formally advised the Chilean authorities in November 1984 of the Canadian Government's concerns about the escalating level of violence, bombings and repression in Chile and our regret that this deteriorating situation made necessary the re-imposition of the state of siege with its attendant suspension of civil liberties. We also expressed the hope that circumstances would permit the Chilean Government to rescind the state of siege at an early date and permit a resumption of the peaceful process of return to democracy.

At the United Nations General Assembly in December, Canada also voted in favour of the resolution condemning the denial of human rights in Chile and placed on record in that body the appeal to the Government of Chile to demonstrate its intention to fulfill the Charter obligation to promote and protect human rights.

I would like to thank you for the interest and concern expressed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D.J. Browne".

for D.J. Browne
Director
South America Relations
Division