November 25, 1980.

The Honourable Senator Harry Hays and Mr. Serge Joyal, M.P.,
Co-Chairmen, Special Joint Committee
of the Senate and House of Commons
on the Constitution of Canada,
Houses of Parliament,
Ottawa.

Dear Sirs:

The Canadian Association for the Prevention of Crime
strongly supports the move to entrench a Canadian Charter of
Rights and Freedoms in Canada's Constitution. We believe, however,
that amendments to the draft being considered by your Committee
are essential if the resulting Charter is to have maximum effect.

The Canadian Association for the Prevention of Crime is a
national voluntary body with the twin objectives of reducing the
crime problem and promoting good criminal justice services for all
Canadians. In our preventive role we are interested in all sections
of the proposed Charter that have implications for improving the
lot of Canadians who suffer under social handicaps. However, because
of time pressures, we propose to limit our presentation to your
Committee to those sections of the proposed Charter that deal with
Legal Rights.

We are anxious to appear before your Committee to present our
views or, if that is impossible, to submit a written statement.
We are of the opinion that the deadlines set by the Government of
Canada for this exercise are far too rigid. On such an important
matter time should be provided for full study by organizations such
as ours and for unhurried presentations before your Committee.
We look forward to your decision on whether an appearance by our Association before your Committee is possible or, if not, whether you can accept a written statement. Perhaps one of your staff could phone me to give us your decision.

Sincerely,

W. T. McGrath,
Executive Director.