



April 21, 2003

Ms. Doreen Forbes
86-9 Ailsa Place
London, Ontario
CANADA N5Z 4Z6

Dear Ms. Forbes:

BTC Pipeline and Human Rights Violations

Thank you for your letter of March 28, 2003, addressed to Peter Woicke, regarding the alleged human rights violations in southeastern Turkey. I am responding on behalf of Mr. Woicke.

We wish to assure you that in considering this project we will require compliance with all our applicable policies and guidelines.

We would like to clarify however that IFC, in consultation with our colleagues at the World Bank, has determined that the project does not affect any groups or communities that would fall under the definition of the Indigenous Peoples Policy, and *OD 4.20*, which you have referenced, is therefore not applicable. IFC is, however, cognizant of a number of potentially vulnerable groups, including various ethnic minorities, such as Azeri and Greek communities in Georgia and Kurdish and Alevi Muslim communities in Turkey. Please note that no households would be physically displaced along the pipeline route; the main impact will be temporary disruption to cropping and grazing during construction. We are addressing such impact, particularly among vulnerable groups in various ways. The approach that has been adopted to keep these groups from being negatively affected by the project is through following our comprehensive resettlement plans (resettlement only refers to compensation for temporary economic disruption during construction) and social and community investment programs. The resettlement plans have given specific attention to project impacts that may affect marginalized and vulnerable groups and have set in place the means for applying compensation measures equitably.

Our staff regularly visits various communities along the pipeline route to validate the relevant processes, including consultations, and has recently observed the land acquisition process. Local NGOs are also providing independent third-party input in the process of land acquisition. In the context of our work with respect to this project and its related activities, IFC staff and members of these NGOs have not come across any evidence to suggest that human rights violations are taking place in any communities affected by the pipeline. Thank you for your concerns.

Sincerely,

Yasmin Tayyab
Civil Society Coordinator

cc: Mr. Peter Woicke, Executive Vice President, IFC,
Mr. Rashad Kaldany, Director, IFC
Mr. Shahbaz Mavaddat, Associate Director, IFC
Mr. Edward Nassim, Director, IFC
Mr. Khosrow Zamani, Director, IFC