

# Treatment criticized of Indian deported from B.C. prison

By JAMES JEFFERSON

Leonard Peltier, the American Indian Movement activist extradited to the United States Saturday, received "totally unjustifiable" treatment in a British Columbia prison, according to an Amnesty International report.

The report, sent to federal Justice Minister Ronald Basford last month, criticized prison officials for keeping Mr. Peltier in an "isolation unit" in Oakalla Prison in Burnaby, B.C., beginning three days after he arrived there in February.

It said the deputy warden of the prison justified the conditions of Mr. Peltier's confinement by calling him a "super maximum risk," but the official knew of no criminal convictions against him, and said he was a model prisoner.

The report also says:

—Mr. Peltier was permitted no outside exercise until June, but was allowed some inside exercise near his cell.

—There was no light inside his cell, but there was one outside which was on 24 hours a day, so that the cell was always fairly dark, but never dark enough for sleeping.

—At the time of writing, the report says, Mr. Peltier had not been allowed any physical contact with his wife and child.

—For the first four months of his confinement, Mr. Peltier was the only prisoner in the isolation unit; later, varying numbers of other prisoners were in the unit, usually for their own protection.

The report concludes that Mr. Peltier was being treated in that fashion because he was an Indian, an activist in AIM, and there were political aspects to his case.

The report was sent to Mr. Basford by the international executive committee of Amnesty International, a human rights organization which reports, among other things, on the treatment of political prisoners.

The report was written by James Lockyer, who teaches law at the University of Windsor and attended an appeal against the extradition order in British Columbia in October.

Mr. Lockyer said yesterday he also interviewed prison officials and Mr. Peltier, and visited his cell.

As far as he knew, he said Mr. Basford had never replied to the report. Mr. Basford had to make the final decision on whether Mr. Peltier, wanted in the United States for the murder of two FBI agents in South Dakota, should be extradited.