

During the coming period, while Canada lacks full membership, we shall still be represented at the Commission by a strong observer delegation led by a senior diplomatic officer. We shall not be able to introduce resolutions or participate in the voting, nor shall we be able to take part in the confidential considerations of the country situations. On the other hand, we shall be able to participate in the debate and sit on a number of the working groups, and co-sponsor resolutions. Indeed it seems to me that by working closely with delegations of friendly member states, and being able to concentrate our efforts on items of most interest to Canada, we will be able to accomplish almost as much as if we were full members. I hasten to add that even if this optimism proves well-founded, we would still seek re-election as soon as possible.

I would also like to note that there will be eminent Canadians working within the United Nations system as experts in human rights, rather than as agents of the government. Madame Gisèle Coté-Harper has been elected to the Human Rights Committee to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Justice Tarnopolsky. Mr. Justice Jules Deschênes and Madame Rita Cadieux have been elected, as member and alternate respectively, to the Sub-Commission for the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. We also have Maureen O'Neil on the UN Commission on the Status of Women, and Madame Marie Caron has served on the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women since its inception. Each has a distinguished record in human rights, and I am sure that they will contribute to the impartial and international character which we would wish to maintain in the bodies on which they serve.

In addition to the United Nations, there is another forum in which human rights are coming increasingly to attention and that is the system of meetings which is held within the process of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), embodied in the Final Act of Helsinki in 1975. The CSCE is a multi-faceted process in which there are at present two main parts, the security aspect and the humanitarian dimension. The Final Act recognized the importance of human rights to the relationship between East, West and the neutral and non-aligned states of Europe, plus Canada and the United States.

The negotiation of the humanitarian dimension was difficult in the first instance and, with the decline of *détente*, has become an ever-larger bone of contention, at the first follow-up meeting in Belgrade and again at the second follow-up meeting in Madrid from 1980 to 1983. At the Madrid meeting the subject of implementation in the field of human rights was pursued throughout the three years with full participation by the Canadian delegation. I regret to have to say that the debate did little to reach a solution to the problem of implementation as an irritant of major proportions. In fact, it would be fair to say that during the conference, performance became worse and exculpatory justifications were made by some participating states which will only add to the problem.

In his opening speech on November 11, 1980, the then Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. MacGuigan, proposed that a meeting of experts be held to discuss the problem of human rights within the CSCE context. I should add a word of caution at this point. The expression "meeting of experts" is a term within the CSCE system which defines the nature of the meeting rather than the nature of the participants. The meeting, to be held in Ottawa in April, May and June 1985, will be an inter-