

thereof are inconsistent with the purposes and provisions of this Part and he shall report any such inconsistency to the House of Commons at the first convenient opportunity.

4. The provisions of this Part shall be known as the *Canadian Bill of Rights*.

IV
EXCERPT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS SECTION OF
FOREIGN POLICY FOR CANADIANS, OTTAWA, 1970.

"Promoting Observance of Human Rights, Including Adherence to
and Respect for Various United Nations Conventions".

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted in 1948 established the broad principles which the members of the United Nations believed would be the framework within which future declarations and conventions would be shaped. During the last two decades, in the wake of the Universal Declaration, a wealth of international legislation has come into existence.

The Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with the Optional Protocol thereto, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination represent the culminating point in the efforts of the organization to transform the exhortatory provisions of the Universal Declaration into legally-binding obligations.

Although much has been accomplished on the legislative side of the United Nations work in the field of human rights, progress in implementation has been very limited and will require increasing attention during the period which lies ahead. The most widely used method by which the United Nations tries to follow the evolution of the respect for human rights in various parts of the world has been that of periodic reporting. Other methods of implementation, not yet in operation, are provided for in the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and in the Convention on Racial Discrimination. Attention is also being given to the possibility of studying individual situations which reveal a consistent pattern of violations of human rights, and to a proposal to establish the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Also important, in the long term, is the proposal for increased resort to regional machinery for the safeguarding of human rights. Positive experience has been gained from the human rights procedures formulated within the framework of the Council of Europe. In Canada, some provinces have set up human rights commissions and others have appointed ombudsmen.

Canada's general approach to human rights issues in the UN has tended to be cautious, in particular with respect to ratification of human rights instruments, mainly because of problems arising as a consequence of divided federal and provincial jurisdiction. A number of the instruments adopted by the United Nations fall, at least partially, within provincial jurisdiction, e.g. the Convention on Racial Discrimination and the Convention on Civil and Political Rights. Deficiencies in the machinery for federal-provincial consultations on these questions have not encouraged wide understanding of the importance of these international undertakings and have hindered attainment of the support required from the provincial governments before Canada could adhere to them.

Canada's future approach to human rights at the United Nations should be both positive and vigorous. Now that it is committed to protect and safeguard the rights of Canadians, both individually and as disadvantaged minorities, it should accept the obligation to participate