

ORGANIZATIONS, THE VICARIAT OF SOLIDARITY, HAS RECENTLY BEEN CHALLENGED BY A COURT RULING WHICH HAS SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR ITS INTEGRITY AS A DEFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS. IN HONDURAS, A NUMBER OF PROMINENT HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS HAVE HAD THEIR LIVES THREATENED BY ANONYMOUS DEATH SQUADS. IN THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION, WHERE THE VALUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IS WIDELY RECOGNIZED, THE GOOD OFFICES FUNCTIONS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WOULD BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL IN RESOLVING THESE AND OTHER CASES.

WE HAVE SPOKEN AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT KEY DIFFICULTIES FACING THIS COMMISSION. OUR WORK HAS TO BE CHARACTERIZED BY FORWARD MOVEMENT. THE COMMISSION MUST BE VIGILANT IN ITS INSISTENCE ON ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS. WE MUST RECOGNIZE PROGRESS AND CHANGE WHERE IT OCCURS AND NURTURE THE PROCESS OF EVOLUTION IN POSITIVE DIRECTIONS. CONVERSELY, WE MUST BE RESOLUTE IN THE FACE OF DETERIORATION AND UNCOMPROMISING IN THE CASE OF GROSS AND PERSISTENT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THE PROCEDURES WE HAVE ESTABLISHED HAVE THEIR PLACE AND VALUE, BUT WE WERE DISAPPOINTED AT THE RESULTS OF THE DISCUSSION ON ALBANIA IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL LAST YEAR.

MY DELEGATION URGES THIS COMMISSION TO TAKE THE WORD "CO-OPERATION" SERIOUSLY. PRO FORMA APPEARANCES CANNOT BE CONSTRUED TO BE CO-OPERATION, UNLESS REAL CHANGES ARE INDICATED AND COMMENCED WHEN