

### 3. ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS

The Canadian Delegate, Miss Sylva Gelber, delivered a statement to the Third Committee of the General Assembly on "alternative approaches to the promotion and encouragement of human rights and fundamental freedoms". First, she touched on the right and obligation of all member states to be concerned about human rights violations and fundamental freedoms. The Canadian Delegate then suggested three ways that the United Nations could ensure compliance with international human rights standards. Miss Gelber also spoke about Canada's support for the Human Rights Committee and Canada's interest in several proposals to improve the ability of the United Nations system to intercede on behalf of victims of human rights violations. She next mentioned the importance of the national level for the promotion and protection of human rights as well as the need for more states to participate in existing human rights instruments. In conclusion, promising Canada's continued support of all serious efforts to advance human rights and fundamental freedoms, the Canadian Delegate again stressed the obligations of the international community based on the Charter. Miss Gelber made the following remarks on behalf of Canada:

Thirty-three years ago, at the creation of the United Nations Organization, the issue of human rights was deemed to be one of such great concern that it was inscribed no less than seven times in the Charter of the new organization. Convinced that the rights of the person were an essential and legitimate concern of the international community, the delegates who drafted the UN Charter included in Article 1, as one of the fundamental purposes of the Organization, the promotion of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

My delegation and my government have over the years noted with concern that some states whose representatives have been heard here this morning continue to insist that international concern for human rights violations constitutes interference in the internal affairs of those states in which these violations take place. Through their adherence to the Charter and its fundamental objectives, however, all members of this Organization have recognized a right and obligation to be concerned about violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, wherever they may occur. Indeed, those states which commit or permit gross violations of human rights within their borders, provoke response from the international community. Other states must react not only because of their Charter obligations, but also because of the frequent need to provide humanitarian relief to refugees and victims of human rights violations fleeing the countries guilty of such violations.

There are essentially three approaches open to the United Nations in its efforts to ensure compliance with international human rights standards. First, it can monitor and draw international attention to human rights violations. Second, the UN can play a mediating role and intercede on behalf of the victims of violations. And third, it can encourage respect for human rights through information and education programs. The current examination of alternative approaches to improving the effectiveness of the United Nations in the human rights field should have as its objective increasing the capacity of the Organization to effectively perform these three functions. My government has made a number of recommendations for action to improve the effectiveness of the Human Rights Commission in promoting respect for human rights and