

MR. CHAIRMAN,

ON BEHALF OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD. THIS IS AN ISSUE OF GREAT CONCERN, NOT ONLY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, BUT ALSO TO MILLIONS OF CANADIANS WHO SUPPORT THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE WORLD'S PEOPLE FOR FREEDOM AND DIGNITY.

A MEMBER OF MY DELEGATION HAS ALREADY SPOKEN ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND THE NEED TO MAKE THOSE INSTRUMENTS FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY. TO THAT, I WISH TO ADD CANADA'S STRONG SUPPORT FOR OTHER UN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS, INCLUDING SPECIAL RAPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES; THE ADVISORY SERVICES PROGRAM, AND THE VALUABLE ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN GENEVA.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

THE RAPID AND POSITIVE CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE CAN JUSTIFIABLY STAND AS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED WHEN THE POLITICAL WILL EXISTS TO INSTITUTE DEMOCRACY AND SAFEGUARD HUMAN RIGHTS.

AN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT OVER THE PAST YEAR IS THE NEWLY-WON INDEPENDENCE OF THE BALTIC STATES: CANADA WELCOMES LATVIA, LITHUANIA AND ESTONIA TO BOTH THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE CSCE. WE WOULD NOW HOPE THAT WITH TIME, ALL THREE BALTIC STATES WILL SIGN AND RATIFY THE VARIOUS UN HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS.

THE CHANGES IN THE SOVIET UNION ALSO GIVE US HOPE THAT A NEW ERA HAS DAWNED FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE REGION. CANADA WELCOMES THE PROGRESS IN THE USSR WITH RESPECT TO FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS AND THE RULE OF LAW. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE ARE STILL SOME AREAS OF TENSION AND VIOLENCE IN BOTH EASTERN EUROPE AND THE USSR.

I WISH TO EXPRESS, ON BEHALF OF ALL CANADIANS, OUR DEEP CONCERN REGARDING THE CURRENT CRISIS IN YUGOSLAVIA. ALL CANADIANS ARE APPALLED BY THE BLOODSHED AND LOSS OF LIFE, AND ARE SADDENED BY THE WORSENING OF THE SITUATION THERE.

THE GUARANTEE OF MINORITY RIGHTS IS CRUCIAL TO FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE CURRENT CRISIS IN YUGOSLAVIA. CANADA URGES ALL PARTIES IN YUGOSLAVIA TO ADDRESS THEMSELVES TO THIS MOST URGENT QUESTION AND TO UNDERTAKE NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD A PEACEFUL AND COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT.

CANADA IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN SEVERAL PARTS OF THE USSR; IN PARTICULAR, CONTINUING REPORTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

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