

grants to non-governmental organizations, and in our acceptance into Canada of thousands of persons displaced by a variety of wars and tragedies.

Canada is determined to play an effective, responsible role in international human rights. Our policies are rooted in the values of compassion and concern which all Canadians share for the disadvantaged and the threatened. Our policies reflect a heritage which has always emphasized the primacy of rights and freedoms. They are a legacy of the more than 350,000 displaced persons who have found their way to Canada over the last forty years in search of a country where principles of human rights are respected and honoured.

The commitment of the Government in promoting human rights domestically and internationally is firm. Our record speaks for itself, and our willingness to cooperate with you and other non-governmental organizations is a sign of our adherence to the principles enunciated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. You have an essential role to play. You have powers which complement those of government, and ways of influencing the media and other countries that we do not. You have contacts abroad that are unique and useful.

Together, we can achieve a great deal. We intend to continue the creative dialogue which we enjoy with non-governmental organizations such as your own. Even when we disagree on tactics or actions, we can unite around our common objectives. But the path is long and arduous. I count on organizations such as the Canadian Human Rights Foundation to help us along that path, and to help us back if we stray.

Thank you.