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government to study the three instruments before us with great care before we can proceed to ratification. There is, additionally, the well-known constitutional consideration which concerns Canada in matters of this kind. Some of the articles of these international covenants fall directly within that field of competence which, under the Canadian constitution, is reserved exclusively to the provinces of Canada. Therefore, in considering its adherence to the covenants, the Canadian Government naturally will consult with the provinces with a view to obtaining assurances that the provincial authorities will be prepared to implement those provisions which fall within their jurisdiction.

Madame Chairman, I now wish to say a few words about the significance of the work which the Third Committee has completed at this Twenty-First Session, and of the gratitude of my government for the tact and skill with which you have presided over our deliberations.

It is the view of my delegation that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Optional Protocol to the latter covenant, represent three of the most important instruments that have been elaborated in the human rights area since the end of the Second World War. In our opinion, these three great documents now take their proper place as part and parcel of that grand programme under which the United Nations has been promoting the ground rules for a wider and fuller life for all peoples the world over.

These documents provide deeper meaning and support to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948. They identify and clarify basic values; they crystallize new thinking and attitudes to the human rights problem; and they provide a significantly new orientation and frame of reference for the United Nations itself. It is our opinion that from the moment of their adoption by the General Assembly, it will be incumbent upon the United Nations to work tirelessly for the wide acceptance of these documents and the effective compliance by members with their provisions. We attach particular significance to a continuing programme of publicity, because we believe that an important part of the need which we all recognize is to build up, throughout the world, an informed public opinion that will be capable of following and participating in the developing dialogue over human rights, a dialogue that these instruments are bound to evoke and intensify.

Madame Chairman, I have indicated the importance