

Let me propose an alternative, then. This session of the General Assembly should agree to establish a position of Under-Secretary General for Human Rights, and we should appoint an individual of undisputed stature in the international community to that office. This person would use the mandate the Secretary General has under the Charter to use his good offices in the human rights field. With this, we would have an instrument through which the United Nations could fulfil this fundamental responsibility given to it by the people of the world.

Another step that could easily be taken is to devise a way of ending the distressingly large numbers of disappearances of individuals in many parts of the world. We urge that the Human Rights Commission be instructed to set up a committee of experts to investigate these unexplained vanishings.

We must not take the progress that has been made as an indication that our job is done. Outrages still continue. Some are longstanding, like *apartheid* and the situations in Namibia and Zimbabwe-Rhodesia. Others, such as political executions, arise from time to time in various parts of the world. We must find new ways of combating these violations, for world opinion demands it. Unless we can respond, our credibility, our relevance, our usefulness and our very existence are in peril.

But our response must be both responsible and timely. The progress being made at this very moment in regard to Namibia, and Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, for example, deserves our encouragement and support. It would be irresponsible to preempt the satisfactory solution of these problems by precipitate and distracting debate in this, or any other forum.

A corner-stone of the United Nations is the second type of human right I want to discuss — the right of the people of the world to physical security. Born from the ashes of the Second World War, this organization is devoted to the peaceful resolution of differences between nations. To many people this is the sole reason for the existence of this organization, to ensure the human right to live in peace.

Here too, our record gives little cause for satisfaction. Instances of aggression of one country against another continue. As always, righteous justification is claimed by each party to the conflict. There may be righteous warriors, but there are no good wars. The people have entrusted to us the task of stopping this systematic destruction of the most fundamental of all human rights — the right to life itself. And yet armed conflict remains a sorry characteristic of international affairs.

Other related threats to our physical safety continue. The arms race, with all its costs and inherent dangers bounds apace. The spread of nuclear technology, with all the benefits it can bring, has not been paralleled by an equal commitment to a renunciation of the development of nuclear explosive capability. We know that certain states are even today working to achieve mastery in this field, not for the increased well-being its energy can bring to people, but for the creation of an explosion — one that will shake the hearts of peace-loving people everywhere. Surely they can expect better of us.