

to find practical ways to solve particular problems. Those problems are themselves diverse. By way of example, let me report on some of the minority rights questions before our particular Government now.

Our government has introduced historic legislation to amend the Indian Act that will end discrimination based on sex and will give Indian bands control of their membership. As I said in the House of Commons on March 1 - it marks a large step away from a colonial mentality that has scarred the relations between Indian and other Canadians and marks a step - just a step, but an important one - toward greater autonomy for Indian bands. It proceeds in a way that is simultaneously reasonable, tolerant and principled to resolve dilemmas that have been divisive at home and embarrassing abroad.

The Constitution Act, 1982, recognized for the first time rights unique to the aboriginal peoples. It not only affirmed existing aboriginal and treaty rights, but also provided for an unprecedented constitutional process in which First Ministers and aboriginal leaders would participate in discussions to identify and define further the rights of our aboriginal peoples to be entrenched in our Constitution. The third conference in this series will be held next month.

This Government is also committed to new efforts to assist women to a level of true equality in Canada life. This will require, as I have said, some positive measures which will favour women as a community, in order that they may make their full contribution to the society at large. Our constitution now contains a provision guaranteeing fundamental rights and freedoms equally to men and women. A report commissioned by the Government has just been published on equality in employment, and a parliamentary committee will soon examine the question of child care. Here again we find ourselves working in parallel with international efforts. Only a few weeks ago Canada presented in Vienna its first report on how we were implementing the convention on discrimination against women. We also cooperate closely with other states on particular aspects such as the vital role of women in development.

These are domestic concerns, having their reflection in the international field, but the promotion of respect for human rights in other states must also concern