

agenda now, the control of arms and weapons. We are all encouraged that President Reagan and Secretary Gorbachev will hold a preliminary meeting in Reyjavik on the 11th and 12th of October and we hope that will lead to agreements later. The superpowers are at centre stage, and must be given every opportunity and encouragement to make progress, but they are also important areas which Canada must continue to show initiative and leadership -- in chemical weapons and verification technology, to name only two. I look forward to discussing these questions more fully in a statement, probably this month.

In the remainder of this debate, there are four particular matters to which I want to refer -- the reform of the United Nations; greater attention to the potential of the Commonwealth and La Francophonie; the fight against agricultural subsidy; and the question of human rights, particularly in South Africa.

Canada is a strong and consistent friend and supporter of the United Nations. Although our population is only the thirtieth largest in the world, we rank fourth in the size of our financial contributions to the UN system. We intend to continue that active and outspoken support.

It is precisely to strengthen the UN that we urge reform. The Secretary General has before him recommendations from a group of eighteen experts which can begin the administrative reform which, in our judgment, is essential to the survival of the United Nations system. That report is a package, carefully constructed. It should not be unravelled. It should be implemented both as proof that the UN is serious about reform, and as a big first step towards change. Ambassador Lewis, and others, are working to get agreement on the even more central challenge of establishing effective budgetary and planning mechanisms. They work and speak with the full support of this government, and I am sure, of this House.

The UN is the most important of our international institutions, because it can draw together the whole world. Other, more regional organizations, are playing an increasing and encouraging role in establishing cooperation among neighbours. Canada is particularly impressed by the success of ASEAN, in the Pacific, and of the increasingly effective work of SADCC in Southern Africa. SADCC's unity and purpose will be strongly tested in the months ahead. Canada is happy to provide approximately 100 million dollars this year to the SADCC countries to help them build the infrastructure which will enable them to assert their independence of South Africa. We are encouraged by the initiative, in Dhaka last year, to establish the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.