

Department of External Affairs



Canada

Ministère des Affaires extérieures

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
FORTY-FOURTH SESSION

ITEM 22 - ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE
FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

OBSERVER DELEGATION OF CANADA
STATEMENT DELIVERED BY M. MAURICE TREMBLAY
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
25 FEBRUARY 1988

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is pleased that added time and emphasis have been given to this item at the present session. For much of our time during the Commission, we focus on country situations, with all of their attendant problems of judgment. Under this item, we have an opportunity to take a more measured, long-term view of the global human rights situation, for a constructive and positive point of view. As the UnderSecretary-General remarked in his opening address some three weeks ago, "a fundamental objective must surely be to help prevent human rights violations before they occur, to assist member states in building up the necessary infrastructures to enable the widest realization of human rights". This vision is consistent with Canadian perspectives on the Advisory Services Programme which we see as a vehicle for promoting long-term institutional growth and development which are essential if enjoyment of human rights is to become a functional reality throughout the world.

Last year, the Commission decided that the Programme of Advisory Services should increasingly be focussed on the provision of practical assistance in the implementation of the international covenants and conventions in the field of human rights. The document before us, E/CN.4/1988/40, responds to that directive.