

continued support for UN action to promote respect for human rights and called for further measures to improve UN machinery to ensure decency and freedom for all people. The following paragraphs are extracts from the Canadian statement on the subject.

The Canadian position with respect to human rights as an element of international relations is clear and unequivocal. The Charter of the United Nations establishes as one of its key purposes the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights. In adhering to the Charter, therefore, Canada and all other member states have accepted a solemn charge to support these objectives. Accordingly, we continue to reject any contention that human rights are matters solely of domestic jurisdiction beyond the competence of international action. Canada has actively promoted both the standards contained in the major international human rights instruments and the monitoring machinery which promises to make them truly effective. Our support for the principle of respect for human rights acts in two mutually reinforcing directions: while we urge greater respect for human rights internationally, we freely assume obligations legally binding upon ourselves to pursue domestic efforts as diligently as possible.

Over the past three decades, the performance of the United Nations in the area of human rights has not lived up to the expectations of the drafters of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Despite the elaboration of numerous instruments, the gap between theoretical standards and concrete achievement is large. This criticism is especially true in the case of gross and persistent violations of human rights. In the view of the Canadian Government, all serious abrogations of human rights--whether they be economic, social and cultural, or civil and political--merit our attention. But special efforts should and must be focussed on those situations in which there have been reliable attested allegations of gross and persistent violations.

While we must conclude that the picture regarding human rights in Chile is mixed, the Government of Chile should be commended for having permitted the entry of the Ad Hoc Working Group and facilitated its work. This action constitutes an important precedent for the human rights efforts of the UN and is another step towards establishing more uniform, non-partisan reporting, investigating and fact-finding procedures. The Canadian Delegation hopes that similar steps of a humanitarian nature can be taken to remedy the human rights situation which exists at present in Democratic Kampuchea. Documentation of violations of human rights has been compiled by a number of states and organizations, including Canada, and has been presented to the Commission on Human Rights. We welcome the announcement that the Government of Democratic Kampuchea has invited the Secretary-General to make an official visit, and that the Secretary-General has accepted in principle. When the Secretary of State for External Affairs for Canada raised the question of human rights in Democratic Kampuchea in the course of the General Debate in Plenary early in the session, in a right-of-reply statement the Kampuchean Delegation suggested that our motives were politically motivated and partisan. Let me state for the record, should there be any ambiguity, that we have been led to the submission of a report to the Commission on Human Rights and to raising this issue in public fora, by expressions of humanitarian concern,