

HUMAN RIGHTS: EXCERPTS FROM STATEMENTS MADE BY PM AND SSEA

Prime Minister: Speech to the XVIIIth General Assembly of the International Assembly of French-Speaking Parliamentarians, Montreal, September 3, 1991

...."Human rights" is not an abstract legal notion or a fashionable political theory in industrialized countries. Human rights means an opportunity for a human being to be sufficiently nourished; adequately housed; suitably clothed; to be educated and to educate his/her children as well; have access to proper medical treatment; earn a living; and keep his/her family free from financial worries. "Human rights" means respect for the dignity of each human being.

SSEA: Speech to the CSCE Meeting on the Human Dimension, Moscow, September 10, 1991

....We confirmed in the Paris Charter that freedom and political pluralism are....fundamental to the successful transition to market economies. Free enterprise and freedom of the individual go hand in hand, not as an ideology but as a fundamental way of living our lives together on this planet.

....Women's equality is fundamental to building a democratic society in which all members of society are afforded the same rights and responsibilities.

....Human rights, fundamental freedoms and democratic development are essential components of security. We cannot continue to build this new Europe of hope and justice if we have not entrenched these inherent rights.

SSEA: speech to the Forty-Sixth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, September 25, 1991

....the concept of sovereignty must respect higher principles.

....our collective security depends upon democracy and respect for human rights.

....democracy is more than an electoral process. It is a way of thinking, and it requires institutional support, including a free press and the vigilant protection of an independent judiciary.

....the United Nations must provide leadership on all issues of women's equality....no nation can be fully developed until all of its citizens have not only the opportunity, but also the ability to contribute their talents, intelligence and energy to that goal.

....A key human rights challenge is to improve the lives of the world's children. This includes not only full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, but also the ambitious goals of the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit for Children.

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