

In Europe and in Latin America, this international activity has been paralleled by the development of regional pacts, even more demanding in some respects, in which the states concerned have sought to develop legal systems having particular relevance to their cultures.

In this framework of multilateral treaties, states have defined more and more precisely international standards of human rights which they have agreed to observe within their frontiers, and which they have undertaken to promote widely. States are now answerable to one another, and to the international and regional communities at large, for their conduct in this field. This is "truly revolutionary", indeed.

Obviously the "revolution" is not yet complete. While we can rejoice at the establishment of this international network of state obligations in human rights, we cannot take as much satisfaction from the means available to ensure that these obligations are met. To create more effective structures and procedures for implementation will be a long and difficult task in a world of states, each of which must be persuaded to yield still greater amounts of "sovereignty".

There are a number of ways in which protagonists of human rights can seek to achieve more effective and universal implementation of the agreed international standards. The first of these is by ensuring that new international conventions contain within themselves some adequate means for their enforcement. I think this will be done in the case of the Draft Convention on Torture, which has gone forward from this session of the Human Rights Commission for consideration at this fall's General Assembly. While final agreement is still to be obtained, Canada is giving its strongest support to the creation of an active committee under this Convention, a committee which will not only consider national reports on the matter, but will also have a mandate to investigate complaints received from various sources.

Secondly, more coverage can be obtained by improving the processes, particularly those of the Human Rights Commission, under which any member state of the United Nations, and not just those who have ratified the covenants and conventions, can be called to account on allegations of gross and persistent violations of international standards.

Thirdly, more states must be persuaded to join the international network of treaties and conventions, and