

PRINCIPLES? HOW CAN WE COME TO GRIPS WITH GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN A TIMELY FASHION?

MY DELEGATION IS OF THE VIEW THAT THE CRITICAL ISSUE OF TIMING HAS YET TO BE ADDRESSED. WE STILL LACK A MEANS OF RESPONDING QUICKLY TO EMERGENCY SITUATIONS. ALTHOUGH GOOD OFFICES FUNCTIONS EXIST, THEY ARE UNCERTAIN AT THE BEST OF TIMES. ONE IDEA WHICH PARTIALLY MEETS THE GROWING REQUIREMENT FOR TIMELINESS IS TO VEST THE BUREAU OF THE COMMISSION -- ALL FIVE OF ITS OFFICERS -- WITH THE COLLECTIVE POWER TO MEET PERIODICALLY WHEN THE COMMISSION IS NOT IN SESSION FOR THE PURPOSES OF ADDRESSING URGENT SITUATIONS. CLEARLY A WIDE CONSENSUS WITHIN THE COMMISSION IS ESSENTIAL IF THIS CONCEPT IS TO WORK. SOME MINIMAL GUIDELINES MAY BE REQUIRED AS TO THE DUTIES OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION IN THE EVENT OF THE ABSENCE OR UNAVAILABILITY OF OTHER BUREAU MEMBERS. IT MIGHT BE PRUDENT TO CONSIDER THIS MEASURE ALONG WITH OTHER INITIATIVES TO STREAM-LINE THE COMMISSION'S AGENDA AND PREPARE FOR THE ANNUAL SESSIONS MORE CAREFULLY.

MY DELEGATION BELIEVES THAT AN INTER-SESSIONAL ROLE FOR THE BUREAU IS DESIRABLE AND THAT STEPS COULD BE UNDERTAKEN THIS YEAR TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF RECEIVING THE NECESSARY AUTHORIZATIONS.