The Rt. Hon. Joe Clark, P.C., M.P.
Secretary of State for External Affairs

Le très hon. Joe Clark, C.P., Député
Secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures

Canada

OTTAWA, Ontario
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Dear Participants,

We commemorated in 1988 the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The anniversary was marked by a number of activities throughout the world including the awarding in December by the United Nations Secretary-General of five human rights prizes. Professor John Humphrey of McGill University was one of the recipients. Professor Humphrey played a crucial role in 1948 in the drafting and adoption of the Declaration. He has continued since that time to work tirelessly in the human rights field. The award was in recognition of his contributions to promote and protect human rights.

In this connection, Canada's own human rights posture derives strength from the breadth of knowledge and experience held by individuals such as Professor Humphrey. It is for this reason that I value the consultation in preparation for the U.N. Commission on Human Rights. The mutual sharing of information on thematic issues and on conditions elsewhere in the world is as helpful to Ministers and officials as I trust it is to concerned Canadians.

I took great pleasure in announcing last August that Ms. Raynell Andreychuk, currently High Commissioner to Kenya, with accreditation to Uganda, Somalia and the Comoros will head Canada's delegation to the upcoming session of the Commission on Human Rights. Ms. Andreychuk has held a variety of appointments, including judge of the Saskatchewan Provincial Court. She blends these experiences with extensive participation in voluntary and community organizations. I have instructed Ms. Andreychuk to maintain a strong Canadian presence at the Commission. Indeed, Canada was elected last spring to serve on this forty-three member body. Consequently, with your assistance, Canada will be in the position to play a prominent role at the Commission.

Yours sincerely,