

community has taken no action. The Commission on Human rights was eventually willing to devote a great deal of its time in open session to expressing its "profound indignation" at events in Chile, but was not prepared to voice even the mildest public criticism of the situation in Uganda. The Canadian delegation introduced a resolution urging the Ugandan authorities to accept an impartial, international investigation. This was a reasonable position, consistent not only with previous Canadian action but also with accepted international practice, which requires respect for national sovereignty. But so great was the opposition to our resolution that we were forced to allow it to stand without vote rather than have it summarily rejected in secret session where, under the rules of the Commission, none of the proceedings can be reported.

I might add that many of the same countries that protected Uganda from any meaningful criticism in the Commission on Human Rights, and refused to associate themselves with a U.S. resolution on Soviet dissidents, are loud in defence of human rights elsewhere. A double standard in the human-rights field is an unhappy fact of international life. For its part, the Canadian Government will refuse to accept the conclusion of the Commission that it has discharged its responsibilities satisfactorily. We intend to continue to press, at the UN and other bodies, for meaningful and concrete action to bring the Government of Uganda, among others that have persistently violated the international standards of behaviour in human rights, to observe the obligations they have freely accepted.

But public discussion of particular family-reunion cases in Eastern Europe, on the other hand, could have severe repercussions, because the people concerned do not have the protection afforded by the international spotlight, and would have no recourse if Canadian efforts to secure reunion in Canada were blocked as result of public discussion. Here, we have opted for "private" diplomacy and I am happy to report that, in most countries of Eastern Europe, we have seen a marked increase in the number of reunited families.

Pressure to speak out is always great, and it comes mainly from people whose indignation is kindled by what must seem like our official silence and inactivity.

Regarding Chile, a country about which I have received a lot of mail recently, Canada has been particularly active with regard to the human-rights situation in that country and will continue to be so as long as evidence of violations persists. In addition