

proposal for a High Commissioner for Human Rights, co-sponsored by Canada, is of similar design. Both these documents, in this regard, go beyond the suggestion for national committees in article 12 of Ghana's amendment. And because they correspond with our view of the desirability of an open society; of larger groupings in the world; of growing international, as opposed to national, loyalties and identifications; and the individual's fullest possible participation in the processes of power, we prefer the former approach to the latter.

We have no illusions of course about the easy or quick achievement of this objective. We realize that different societies are in different stages of development, and that as long as there is widespread disease, poverty, exploitation and instability in the world, there is little likelihood of any kind of universal acceptance of a really effective right of petition procedure. We are also sensitive to the fact that many, many countries are simply not ready for this kind of an experiment, and that other countries just don't share the concept of human rights that has developed in the Western world.

In the view of our delegation, however, the general views which we have outlined should continue to serve as our unifying and organizing principle - as the standard which we should seek - and we think that we should tend to err, if we must err at all, on the side of the bold, the experimental, the enthusiastic, rather than on the side of the traditional and the conservative. We would do well to remember that the work of the Commission, and of our Committee, has been severely