

there are group rights to protection of language and culture. This more liberal concern over the existence of cultural groups is reflected in the UN conventions on human rights. Canada cannot stand aside, no province can stand aside, from the movement for the acceptance of these broad international norms pertaining to the rights and well-being of groups within larger societies. Canada must remain in the forefront of the drive to recognize and implement these rights.

Enshrined in a united Canada must be the conception of the free individual. In the final analysis, whatever the place of groups in the development of Canada, it will be individual Canadians in a free society who will build Confederation in our second century. The rights of all Canadians must be preserved, strengthened and guaranteed not only in official documents but also in the acceptance, tolerance and encouragement of their fellow citizens.

The international struggle for human rights is based upon the Universal Declaration of Human Rights -- one of the great landmarks in the search for a more enlightened and humanitarian civilization. This document, proclaimed by the United Nations on December 10, 1948, was created through the common resolve of the representatives of a large portion of the world's peoples.

Its fundamental purpose has been to affirm that the responsibility for the protection of human rights is a formal and permanent obligation of the international community of nations. The Declaration deals with civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. While it is not legally binding on member states of the United Nations, this solemn Declaration has exercised considerable influence on the rights accorded to people of the world. Undoubtedly, this document had an important influence on the Canadian Bill of Rights.

The United Nations has proclaimed 1968, the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration, to be International Year for Human Rights. To give real meaning to the Year, the United Nations, among other things, has called upon member states to intensify efforts in the fields of human rights legislation and public education.

As I said at the United Nations a year ago: " . . . the most useful contribution Canada could make would be to subject our own record, our own practices, to critical examination, drawing on all the resources of the community for this purpose. Complacency is a disease from which we all suffer. So our objective will be to remove the vestiges of discrimination . . . and to strengthen the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms by a continuing process of education and by subjecting violations to exposure and public attention. I am confident that we shall be able to carry out a programme of this kind successfully because of the enthusiastic support for the cause of human rights which is displayed by voluntary bodies in Canada. . . ."

I understand that many voluntary organizations are now developing International Year programmes. A Canadian Commission for International Year was organized this summer to assist the private sector plan 1968 programmes. This Commission is an independent, voluntary agency aimed at stimulating International Year observances.