

Department of External Affairs



Ministère des Affaires extérieures

Canada

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
FORTY-FOURTH SESSION

ITEM 11

FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION  
OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE  
COMMISSION, ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND  
MEANS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR  
IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

OBSERVER DELEGATION OF CANADA  
STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MR. ROSS HYNES  
15 FEBRUARY, 1988

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation regards the present agenda item as one of the most important elements of the Commission's work. It provides an important opportunity to review a range of current and prospective mechanisms, at both the domestic and the international levels, to advance the promotion and actual enjoyment of human rights. Our deliberations on this item should thus play a major role in setting future directions for the United Nations Human Rights Program as a whole.

Regrettably however, debate on this item has all too often been given short shrift in the face of competing demands for time. We are very pleased that the Commission has decided this year to address Item 11 on a priority basis and at an early stage. Decision 1987/108 underlines the need for us to give particular attention to questions of priority-setting with a view to ensuring the appropriate input from the Commission to the review of the intergovernmental structure in the economic and social spheres of the UN.