

minority groups during the early stages of nation-building. Most of these experiments in nation-building have proceeded as smoothly, if not more so, than in older, developed countries. Political harmony and respect for human rights, and the rights of communities, are at once prerequisites and components of the developing process.

As a partner in development, Canada has formed close relationships with many developing countries, and we must be dismayed when they experience difficulties which threaten their domestic peace and progress. Sri Lanka comes to mind as a classical current example of a country with minority problems, but there are others that one could mention. We have often expressed to other governments our concern about the trend of events in their countries, and now our Government intends to address the more difficult question of whether our bilateral aid resources should be more related to the performance of recipient governments in such areas as human rights.

In South Africa we have a country where those in control are in fact a numerical minority and those suffering abuse an overwhelming majority. Canada over the years has been in the vanguard of initiatives which have sought to bring pressure on the South African Government to treat all its inhabitants with justice and equality. Canada has for years prevented the sale of Canadian military equipment to South Africa. We played a pivotal role under the Right Honourable John Diefenbaker in expelling South Africa from the Commonwealth, and have supported programmes designed to help the victims of apartheid. We severely curtailed the use of public funds for the promotion of trade with South Africa and very recently welcomed to our capital the heroic figure of Bishop Tutu. The Government will shortly be looking at other means of expressing the deep opposition of most Canadians to the apartheid policies of the South African Government.

While the scope for national action may be limited, the international situation is not hopeless or even unique. It is exactly that situation which has been faced in other areas of human rights, in which it has been possible to develop internationally agreed standards, and to provide some international mechanisms to encourage the implementation of these standards. And, as I have indicated, the Commission on Human Rights is now engaged in drafting a declaration on the rights of minorities.