

Mr. Chairman, there are other countries in the world where human rights are in jeopardy and on which my delegation would like to comment. On a hopeful note, we may look to changes of government in Uganda and in Haiti to provide an opportunity for greater freedom and development for their peoples, who have suffered abuse and neglect for too long. Still more recently, the dramatic change in government in the Philippines has offered the promise of an end to the persistent and serious violations of human rights, amidst mounting insurrection.

We must, however, also take note of situations where developments have been less encouraging. In Sri Lanka, we are saddened by recent reports of bombings by the Air Force in the densely populated Jaffna Peninsula. We deeply regret the loss of life by innocent civilians on both sides in the current conflict and urge the Sri Lankan Government to make its best efforts to find a peaceful political settlement. We welcome the efforts of the Government of India to facilitate negotiations between the Government of Sri Lanka and various Tamil groups and urge that these efforts be continued.

In Kampuchea we must deplore the plight of the people, still suffering under foreign occupation and abuse, abuse that has driven so many of them to neighboring countries as refugees. And the situation in Vietnam, the occupying power, is hardly better, with many persons consigned to so-called "re-education camps", and many others who are prepared to risk their lives to flee the country.

In Nicaragua, a promise of freedom is being eroded by restrictions on civil liberties, and the violence of insurrection.

The resettlement programme in Ethiopia on which opinions are still divided also requires comment. Canada is concerned about reports of human rights abuses in the execution of the programme. We have made several representations to the Ethiopian authorities in this regard and have been encouraged by their response to our concerns. We welcome Ethiopia's assurances that corrective measures will be taken and also their undertakings to ensure donors access to resettlement sites. In consultation with the Ethiopian Government, Canada hopes to send a mission to visit the resettlement sites in the near future.