

when it comes to speaking the truth. Canada should and can be a leader in setting moral and leadership standards.

Another key tactic in the Soviet strategy is to convince the West of Soviet good intentions. They accomplish this goal by signing documents which they know the West cannot enforce and which they have no intention of carrying out. The most flagrant recent example of this is the Helsinki Accords. While the document speaks in lofty terms of the respect for human rights, it provides no concrete mechanisms through which abstract principles can be transformed into reality. Vague documents such as the Helsinki Accords are well liked by the Soviets, allowing them to score propaganda points without having to alter their ways.

Unfortunately for the West, signing such documents is not a harmless enterprise as it undermines a major distinction between their system of government and ours. Whereas for the the Soviets, human rights are just empty rhetoric, for Canada human rights goes to the very heart of the purpose of our nation. In signing vague documents we trivialize our most noble aspirations by allowing them to be turned into empty slogans. Because we in the West are by nature conciliatory we have at times been willing to sign agreements rather than face the prospect that an absence of written agreement would best serve our cause. If we are to sign future agreements dealing with human rights with the