

codifying and proclaiming human rights and freedoms - in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and in the International Covenants on Human Rights.

Similarly, we were not just founding members of NATO in 1949. We ensured that the North Atlantic Treaty expressed the desire of the parties to live in peace with all peoples, and that it imposed obligations beyond common defence including the strengthening of free institutions and the promotion of conditions of stability and well-being. And in the years that followed the founding of NATO, Canadians were among the most prominent proponents of the two-track approach to East/West relations - combining defence with detente - and among the most active advocates of respect for human rights in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Concern for human rights is no less of a cornerstone of Canadian foreign policy today. In the past year alone, we have witnessed some quite remarkable movement on the human rights front - with Canadians very often in the forward trenches. Let me cite a few examples.

March 21 is observed by the U.N. as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, commemorating the time in 1960 when South African police killed 69 demonstrators and wounded nearly 200 at Sharpeville. In the intervening generation, a variety of U.N.-sponsored sanctions were applied against South Africa, with little discernible improvement in its policy of apartheid. In the past twelve months, world opinion has been mobilized against apartheid, placing the South African authorities under enormous pressure to dismantle their system of institutionalized racial segregation.

The last twelve months have also seen actions advancing human rights in other continents and countries. The government of Chili has been subjected to serious new pressures - including from the United States - to put an end to the security forces' systematic resort to physical and psychological torture of opponents to the regime.

In El Salvador, there are positive signs in comparison with the situation two years ago. The Government has had some success in improving its human rights record, but kidnappings, assassinations and urban terrorism by both right wing death squads and left wing terrorists continue. We have encouraged both the Government and insurgent groups to choose the path of peaceful reconciliation rather than violence.

In Guatemala, gross and widespread violations of human rights continue. However, we are encouraged that the newly-elected civilian government has committed itself to the difficult task of building the legislative and judicial bases without which human and civil rights cannot be fully protected.