

Covenant. However, the reporting process will not necessarily stop there, since the Committee is entitled to ask for clarification or more information if it wishes. The Government is now engaged in a similar process for the submission of a report on implementation of the Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights.

Of equal significance are Canada's obligations under the Optional Protocol, which allows for the submission to the Committee of individual complaints of human rights violations. The Government is aware of four such submissions concerning Canada in 1977 and the numbers will undoubtedly grow as the procedure provided for in the Protocol becomes more widely known. In response to these complaints, the Protocol obliges states to "submit to the Committee written explanations or statements clarifying the matters and the remedy, if any, that may have been taken by the state". The Committee is empowered to submit its views to the individual and state concerned, and report to the General Assembly on its activities under the Protocol.

In addition to the procedure provided for individuals under the Protocol, the Covenant itself contains a provision under which states can declare their recognition of the competence of the Committee to receive state-to-state complaints. The preparation of such a declaration is now under consideration by the Canadian Government.

U.N. activity with respect to the development of international human rights law continues apace. The Human Rights Commission has begun work on a draft convention on torture and also has before it a proposal for a Draft Convention on the Rights of the Child. Studies have also been undertaken on the rights of aliens, treatment of prisoners, rights of migrant workers and the rights of persons belonging to ethnic, linguistic and other minorities. Of particular interest are two studies recently undertaken by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. These studies, now before the Commission for consideration, are entitled "The Problem of the Applicability of Existing International Provisions for the Protection of Human Rights to Individuals Who are not Citizens of the Country in Which They Live" and "The Question of Human Rights of Persons Subjected to any Form of Detention or Imprisonment".

It is obvious that the impetus generated by the Adoption of the Universal Declaration in 1948 persists and, viewed in the relatively short period of time which has elapsed since World War II, has resulted in a remarkable growth and development of international human rights law.