

instance to a new piece of legislation passed only this year by Czechoslovakia, which provides that "Czechoslovak citizens who maintain contact with persons whose citizenship has been cancelled according to these rules cannot be permitted to travel outside the Czechoslovak Republic". There are, in fact, other similar provisions that specifically place barriers to the freer movement of individuals to friends and relatives who have either not regularized their status or are in the process of doing so. Whatever the merits of such provisions in the judgment of the Czechoslovak Government (and it must be emphasized beyond any misunderstanding that we are here considering the impact that these regulations have on citizens and governments of other countries), the fact is that it has the effect of penalizing some persons whose only act has been to maintain contacts with a member of their family or friends abroad. In a country like Canada that situation, Mr. Chairman, has profound consequences of an adverse nature for *détente*.

Perhaps one of the ideas to which we should be giving more thought in the months ahead is ways of strengthening the possibility of individual citizens maintaining a dialogue with their governments as a means of safeguarding their human rights. Is it beyond human ingenuity, in both a political context and in a humanitarian spirit, to find ways for citizens to make complaints against their governments, when all means of satisfying demands which to them seem legitimate have been exhausted? This is a complex and sensitive issue but it should not be overlooked or set aside simply for that reason.

Canada, for example, has noted with approval and interest the development within the UN context of concepts and, indeed, international instruments, of this sort, including the relevant sections of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocol. We have noted, too, the ratification of these instruments by many of the participating states. Over the longer term, Canada will be considering how these concepts, and, indeed, others of a similar spirit which will undoubtedly enter into our international discussions, could be made a widely-accepted and living reality, so that it would not be necessary to raise such matters in conferences such as this.

Because of the great importance we place on these questions and because of the gaps in implementation which have been evident to the Canadian Government and to the people of my country, my delegation will wish to consider means of reaffirming in the final document of this conference our commitment to the idea of progressive improvement in the practical application of all human rights. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is essential both for the free and full development of the human person and for the development of friendly relations and co-operation among