

chairman of the group to respond to urgent reports of disappearances by an immediate direct approach to the government concerned. This procedure has saved many lives and has acted as an important deterrent against arbitrary action.

Finally, on our third front, relating to the prevention of further abuses of human rights, Canada recently took the initiative in bringing about the preparation of a report that analyzes the root causes of massive exoduses of people. The report explores a number of ways to prevent this sad phenomenon and the human rights violations that inevitably result. It was considered by the Human Rights Commission last winter and will now be taken up by the General Assembly this fall.

#### CSCE follow-up

Moving beyond the UN context, Canada has tried to make full use of the opportunities offered by the Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation (CSCE). It was at Helsinki of course that the Eastern bloc officially acknowledged that human rights are indeed a matter of international concern. We are insisting that this acknowledgment be given meaningful effect. At the Madrid review meeting of the CSCE, Canada has taken a firm stand on human rights, and especially on the implementation of the Final Act's provisions regarding freedom of movement. We have also demanded that progress in the field of military security be matched with comparable progress in humanitarian matters. That is why we have proposed a meeting of experts to discuss human rights in the follow-up to Madrid. We are determined that the final document from Madrid reflect a strong concern for human rights.

It is the radically different philosophy of life prevailing in the Eastern bloc that explains so many human rights violations there and so many problems of implementation of human rights agreements in the international arena. So long as these violations and problems continue, human rights must necessarily figure among the critical issues of East-West relations.

For similar reasons, human rights must also be addressed in the North-South dialogue. Ideology, however, does not play the same role in human rights violations in the developing countries. These countries naturally tend to attach more importance to economic rights than to the traditional civil and political liberties of the Western world. Canada, of course, recognizes that the basic necessities of life are essential to a life with dignity. We believe, however, that human rights are indivisible and we do not agree that some can be sacrificed in favour of others. While developing countries have the primary responsibility for their own development, we accept that we too must make major commitments of money and resources if disparities are to be eliminated and if all forms of human rights are to be protected.

Canada has played its full part in contributing to international development. We have also supported other initiatives directed to improving human rights in the developing world. Thus we have helped turn the Commonwealth into one of the newest agencies for the promotion of human rights. At their 1981 meeting in Melbourne, the