

Canada is urging UN members to consider more effective funding arrangements for these monitoring bodies. It is, for example, looking at ways to increase funds for the UN Working Group on Disappeared Persons which receives support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). This working group was initiated by Canada, and despite tremendous obstacles it has made remarkable progress in addressing this abhorrent crime against humanity.

Canada is also taking an active role within the monitoring bodies. For example, a Canadian representative was elected to the recently established 10-member committee on the application of the 1987 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights is the UN body specifically responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights. One recent initiative of the commission is the UN Voluntary Fund for Advisory Services in the Field of Human Rights. This fund, administered by the UN Centre for Human Rights, is designed to promote human rights through support for seminars, workshops, and research and provides expert advisors, equipment and supplies for qualified projects. Canada is a strong supporter of this initiative and was the first country to contribute to the fund.

After a four-year absence, Canada was re-elected to the Commission on Human Rights for a three-year term beginning in 1989. It is represented by Ms. Raynell Andreychuck, an expert on human rights, who is also Canada's High Commissioner in Kenya. As a member of the commission,

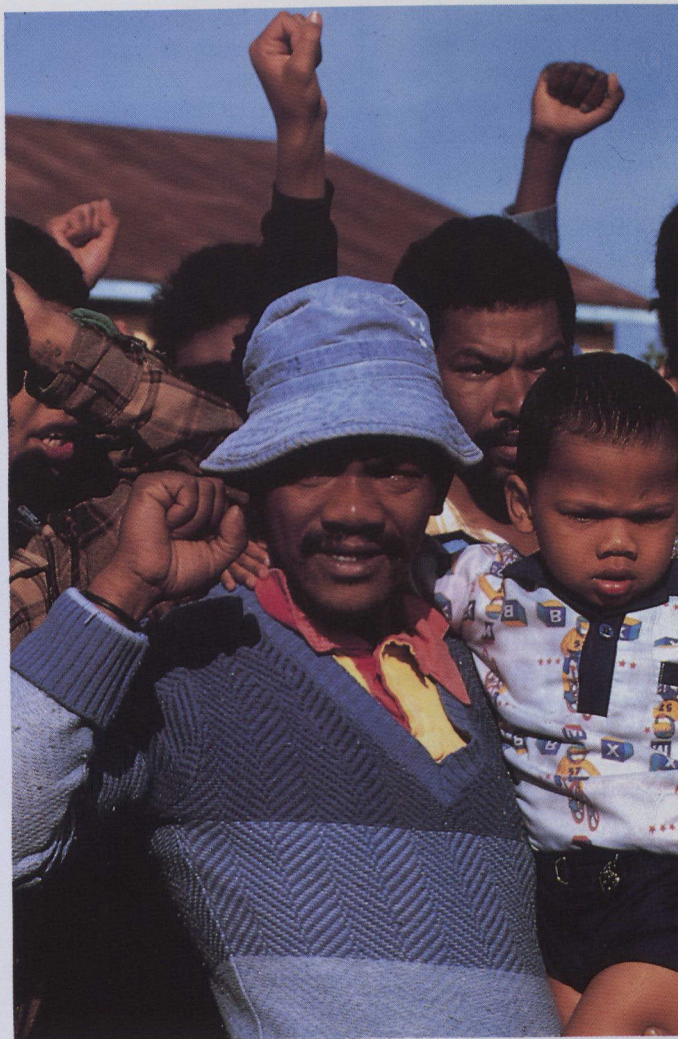


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Canada will maintain a higher profile in UN human rights activities and will have a stronger influence during the commission's informal consultations. Canada will also be able to introduce specific resolutions.

Human Rights in Europe

Another important forum for promoting human rights is the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE). The CSCE was not originally intended to serve as such a forum, but Canada was one of the countries that insisted most strongly that the CSCE address human rights and human contact issues. In the Helsinki Final Act and other CSCE documents, the East European

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countries made an unprecedented commitment to adhere to international human rights norms.

During the recent CSCE meeting in Vienna, Canada sponsored and supported many proposals designed to enhance and improve compliance with those commitments. The recently adopted Vienna Concluding Document contains commitments in human rights and human contacts that go far beyond previous CSCE commitments and represent a new yardstick by which to measure compliance.

Some of the commitments Canada was influential in securing include respect for the right to promote and protect human rights and monitor performance without facing discrimination or punishment; religious freedoms; minority rights; the right to leave one's country without penalty; the privacy and integrity of postal and telephone communications; and freedom of information.

The document also provides for a Conference on the Human Dimension which will meet once each year to review performance and consider new commitments. A mechanism has been established for governments to exchange information and consult bilaterally on difficult cases and situations. These measures will keep human rights central on the CSCE agenda. Canada will press for full compliance by all participating states with all the commitments made at Vienna.

Independent Action for Human Rights

Canada's activism for human rights is not limited to the UN and the CSCE. Outside these organizations, Canada works on its own or in concert with other countries to take a firm stand against human rights violations.

Canada is a member of both the Commonwealth and La Francophonie, where it works actively to promote human rights within member countries of both organizations and in addition encourages member countries to join forces in speaking out against violations of human rights in any part of the world.

Canada is also quick to make its own position on human rights clear, independently of other nations. Canada has not been inhibited from criticizing any flagrant violation of human rights such as torture,