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WHILE THE EFFORTS PURSUED BY THE UNITED NATIONS ARE ACHIEVEMENTS WORTH NOTING, EACH STATE HAS THE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY TO COMBAT RACISM AND TO PROMOTE HARMONIOUS RELATIONS AMONG ITS CITIZENS OF ALL ORIGINS OR CULTURES. UNHAPPILY, EXAMPLES OF DISCRIMINATION, AND REJECTION OF INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS ON THE BASIS OF THEIR COLOUR, ETHNIC HERITAGE, OR SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES CAN BE FOUND IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

THE SITUATION IN CANADA

MR. CHAIRMAN,

CANADA IS NO EXCEPTION. IN A MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY WHERE IN 1986 VISIBLE MINORITIES AND ABORIGINAL PEOPLES REPRESENTED 6 PER CENT AND 4 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION - AND THOSE PERCENTAGES ARE GROWING - OUR POSITION IS VERY CLEAR: RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ARE INCONSISTENT WITH OUR LAWS, OUR IDEALS AND THE KIND OF COUNTRY THAT WE WANT TO BUILD. THAT IS WHY THE CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS IN OUR CONSTITUTION INCLUDES EQUALITY RIGHTS, AND A CLAUSE THAT REQUIRES THAT THE INTERPRETATION OF EQUALITY RIGHTS BE RESPECTFUL OF THE MULTICULTURAL HERITAGE OF CANADIANS.

HOWEVER, AS WE ALL KNOW, LAWS ARE NOT ENOUGH TO COMBAT THE RISE IN RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION THAT WE ARE EXPERIENCING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THAT IS WHY ALL STATES, AND THE UNITED NATIONS, MUST ENCOURAGE EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE HARMONY AMONG DIFFERENT GROUPS. FOR ITS PART, CANADA HAS BEEN DELIVERING SINCE 1989 A MAJOR PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. THE CAMPAIGN HAS GROWN EACH YEAR. PLANS ARE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY FOR THE 1994 CAMPAIGN, WHICH AGAIN HAS A MAJOR FOCUS ON SCHOOL-AGE CANADIAN YOUTH, AND ALSO TARGETS THE GENERAL POPULATION.

BUT PUBLIC EDUCATION ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH. WE ARE ALSO SUPPORTING COMMUNITY EFFORTS TO HELP COMBAT DISCRIMINATION. AND WE ARE WORKING WITH INSTITUTIONS IN BOTH THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS TO ENSURE EQUITY IN ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY.

RECENTLY, LIKE OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, WE HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT HATE GROUPS, AND PARTICULARLY ABOUT THE INTERNATIONALIZATION, THROUGH RAPIDLY DEVELOPING TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS AND ORGANIZATIONAL LINKAGES, OF THE DISSEMINATION OF HATE PROPAGANDA. THIS NEW TECHNOLOGY IS MAKING IT EASIER TO CIRCUMVENT EXISTING MEASURES TO CONTROL HATE PROPAGANDA AND RELATED ACTIVITIES.