

In Canada, consideration of the broad subject of human rights is emphasized throughout the year by a number of public celebrations. For instance, we celebrate Brotherhood Week, Citizenship Day, United Nations Day, World Services Day and International Day. But each year, on the tenth of December, the attention of all Canadians is focussed on the ideals and the norms which emerge from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Similarly, the impact which the Declaration has had on national legislations all over the world, and more especially in Canada through the promulgation of the Bill of Rights, is stressed. This explains, I believe, the Canadian Government's interest in ensuring that the fifteenth anniversary will be suitably observed. And I can assure you that Canada will co-operate both in the international field and at home to ensure a worthy commemoration.

My Delegation believes that a small and compact special committee to be appointed by the Secretary-General could make a useful and effective contribution. In consultation with the appropriate organizations it could prepare plans and suggestions for publicizing the Declaration and thus provide substantial assistance to all Member States but especially to those new members of our organization who did not receive the material distributed on the occasion of the tenth anniversary.

As for the amendments to the resolution tabled by the U.S.S.R. Delegation, I reserve the right of my Delegation to comment on these when they are being considered by the Committee.

In turning to other problems in the social field, I should like to express my appreciation for the very lucid comments made by Dr. Tabibi on recent developments in the work of UNICEF, and by Miss Henderson on the current projects of the Bureau of Social Affairs.

On the general subject of balanced social and economic development, my Delegation believes that the last report on the world social situation has contributed materially to a better understanding of the problems involved.

It seems to my Delegation that the pressing needs of developing countries with limited resources can best be met by strengthening the technical machinery for planning and by co-ordinating the planning efforts of international agencies in the programmes which they carry out in co-operation with these governments.

The basic difficulty, of course, is that the concept of balanced development cannot at present be translated into precise quantitative terms. This difficulty is particularly true of countries with limited resources. It is not easy to measure economic and social assets in comparable terms since development in the social sector cannot be translated into monetary terms.

The task of the Social Commission remains to see what steps could be taken to improve our understanding of social development. It is fairly clear from the studies already produced that there can be no standard formula and the case studies are therefore extremely valuable in contributing to the finding of certain general criteria, even though they may be limited in scope to certain sectors like housing or education. A good deal of attention should be directed towards the key indicators and time ought not to be wasted on surveys when it is already obvious that their conclusions could not be carried out for lack of resources.

In this connection my Delegation is pleased to learn of the proposals of the Netherlands Government concerning the establishment of a United Nations Research Institute for Social Development. We shall await with great interest the report which the Secretary-General is expected to present shortly, outlining some of the details regarding this project.