

At the Francophone Summit in Dakar, Senegal, from 24 to 26 May 1989, Canada introduced a resolution, which received unanimous support, calling for "the respect of human rights as well as for the right to development both within and outside our community."²⁰ It was the first time that the Francophonie had adopted such a resolution, which had reportedly been on the Canadian agenda since the previous Summit in Québec in 1987.²¹ External Affairs Minister Clark described the move as "a significant step forward," while conceding that it would not result in "immediate or dramatic improvements."²² In his words: "Once you get people started, you have some leverage to affect their behaviour."²³ Prime Minister Mulroney reportedly stressed human rights in his opening speech at the Summit's first closed-door session of Heads of State and Heads of Government, declaring:

Throughout the world, one thing becomes clearer and clearer: Human rights are inseparable and indispensable. Without economic, social and cultural rights, development is stunted because the spirit is weak. Human rights are a precondition for peace, an engine for prosperity, a legacy for our children.²⁴

The Prime Minister affirmed that respect for human rights would be an important element in the decisions that the Canadian Government would take in responding to requests for foreign aid.²⁵

On 17 August 1988, External Affairs Minister Clark announced the appointment of Ms. A. Raynell Andreychuk as Canada's Representative to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Elected in May 1988 to the Commission after a normal rotational absence since 1984, Canada began its three-year term in January 1989.²⁶ Ms. Andreychuk told the Forty-third Session of the UN General Assembly in November 1988:

One of the dominant themes of the past year has been "reconciliation". Major conflicts are gradually being resolved.... Nonetheless, we must not let more dynamic political situations blind us to glaring human rights inadequacies.... In

20 *Ibid.*, p. 2.

21 Patrick Doyle, "France Forgives \$3 Billion in Debt as Summit Opens." *Toronto Star*, 25 May 1989, p. 25.

22 *Ibid.*

23 Graham Fraser, "Francophone Summit to Consider Rights." *Globe and Mail*, 24 May 1989, p. A8.

24 Doyle, *supra* note 21.

25 Denis Lessard, "Droits de l'homme: la France refroidit les espoirs du Canada." *La Presse*, 24 May 1989. See also: Denis Lessard, "Le sommet de Dakar abordera la question des droits de l'homme." *La Presse*, 23 May 1989; and Denis Lessard, "Le Canada menace de lier son aide au tiers-monde au respect des droits de l'homme." *La Presse*, 25 May 1989.

26 Department of External Affairs, *News Release* No. 111 (27 May 1988); and Department of External Affairs, *News Release* No. 178 (17 August 1988).