

as today and as old as humankind, constants amid change. They have found eloquent expression in the ideals of our Charter, and I urge our re-dedication to them.

But there is none so pervasive as the quest for human dignity for the individual and his rights.

That is why the United Nations enshrined in its Charter, as a primary objective, the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. There has been the development of several important human rights instruments since -- most noticeably, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In its stewardship of implementing the provisions of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, there is the expert and responsible role of the Human Rights Committee. It is as an example of the ability of the international community to promote internationally-recognized standards.

The Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is an equally significant covenant needing serious and expert review.

There are areas in which international standards have yet to be established. We applaud the placing before this Assembly for adoption the Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion.

But, Mr. President, while we welcome the continuing development of international human rights standards, we are deeply conscious that despite these, the grossest of abuses occur; the lives, freedom and integrity of innocent persons are constantly swept aside in the name of one cause, or power struggle, or another. If the United Nations provides relief unhesitatingly to the victims of natural disasters, how can we do less when the crises are man-made?

The United Nations has the means to respond. It can, for example, employ the good offices of the Secretary-General; it can provide for the urgent dispatch of a Special Rapporteur or a Mission of Enquiry. All that is needed is the will to act in providing protection for those individuals or groups whose situation has become perilous in situations of social breakdown.

On the subject of human rights and massive exodus, Canada welcomed the adoption of its proposal to appoint a Special Rapporteur. We trust that the experience of Prince