As the representative of a middle power vitally concerned about nuclear arms control and disarmament I must state that it seems unreasonable to expect progress in this direction if the nuclear weapon powers are not at least prepared to discuss limiting their own nuclear weapons. I therefore appeal to those powers concerned to pursue their efforts to reach agreement on measures of self-restraint with the same diligence that they are promoting the non-proliferation treaty. As the United States Secretary of Defence so aptly expressed it what the world requires is not a new race towards armament but a new race towards reasonableness.

Human Rights

We will be considering this year the important proposal to establish a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. I believe that the establishment of such a post will greatly contribute to the co-ordination and implementation of the human rights legislation adopted by the United Nations in the past 20 years.

This development, together with the recent action of the General Assembly in adopting the Human Rights Covenants and the Convention on the elimination of racial discrimination, will be a fitting introduction to the celebration throughout the world of the International Year for Human Rights in 1968. The International Conference on Human Rights in Tehran in April will provide a major opportunity to take stock and to seize the opportunity provided by the focus of world attention on human rights so as to ensure that the Universal Declaration remains a relevant and living creed.

Areas of Future Work

I would like to conclude this address by mentioning a number of areas of our work which I believe are important to the future of the United Nations but which have been neglected or which despite our efforts remain to be fully cultivated.

Peacekeeping

My Government has always been actively interested in peacekeeping, not only because Canada has contributed military personnel and financial support to United Nations peacekeeping operations for many years, but because we attach the greatest importance to the work of the United Nations in the maintenance of peace and security. Along with several other governments, I think we can claim the