

Coinciding with the retirement of Ambassador Beaulne, they fear that this absence could mark the end of an era of Canadian "activism" in the promotion of human rights on the international scene.

So widespread is this concern that I think I must take this opportunity to ask you to accept that in any body of limited membership, particular states, Canada in this case, must step aside from time to time to allow other states, those of the Western group in this instance, to take a turn. I must assure you that it is the Government's intention to seek re-election at the earliest possible date.

During the coming period, while Canada lacks full membership, we shall still be represented at the Commission by a strong observer delegation led by a senior diplomatic officer. We shall not be able to introduce resolutions or participate in the voting, nor shall we be able to take part in the confidential considerations of the country situations. On the other hand, we shall be able to participate in the debate and sit on a number of the working groups, and co-sponsor resolutions. Indeed it seems to me that by working closely with delegations of friendly member states, and being able to concentrate our efforts on items of most interest to Canada, we will be able to accomplish almost as much as if we were full members. I hasten to add that even if this optimism proves well-founded, we would still seek re-election as soon as possible.

I would also like to note that there will be eminent Canadians working within the United Nations system as experts in human rights, rather than as agents of the Government. Madame Gisèle Coté-Harper has been elected to the Human Rights Committee to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Justice Tarnopolsky. Mr. Justice Jules Deschênes and Madame Rita Cadieux have been elected, as Member and Alternate respectively, to the Sub-Commission for the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. We also have Maureen O'Neil on the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women, and Madame Marie Caron has served on the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women since its inception. Each has a distinguished record in human rights, and I am sure that they will contribute to the impartial and international character which we would wish to maintain in the bodies on which they serve.

In addition to the United Nations, there is another forum in which human rights are coming increasingly to attention and that is the system of meetings which is held within the process of the Conference on Security and