

THAT THESE PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN DOWN-GRADED FOR POLITICAL REASONS. THE DECISION TO PLACE THE SITUATION OF GUATEMALA, FOR EXAMPLE, UNDER THE ADVISORY SERVICES ITEM, REMAINS CONTROVERSIAL IN THE LIGHT OF THE DETERIORATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION LAST YEAR. CANADA LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THIS COMMISSION TO ENSURE THAT THE QUALITY OF ADVICE GIVEN TO THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT COULD CONTRIBUTE TO AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION THERE. WE HAVE OTHER CONCERNS THAT THE QUALITY OF REPORTS VARIES AND THAT THE WORKING ASSUMPTIONS OF EACH COUNTRY RAPPOREUR SEEM SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT. NEVERTHELESS, WE ACCEPT THE FACT THAT THE METHODS OF EACH RAPPOREUR NECESSARILY DIFFER AND THAT EACH MUST DEVELOP WORKING METHODS PRAGMATICALLY, GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE SITUATION ADDRESSED.

THE ISSUE OF COOPERATION WITH THE COMMISSION IS CRITICAL. THE OFFER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA LAST YEAR TO WELCOME A VISIT WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN BUILDING CONSENSUS ON A POTENTIALLY DIVISIVE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION. BUT EQUALLY IMPORTANT ARE OTHER FORMS OF COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS, OTHER MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES, ESPECIALLY IN THOSE AREAS WHERE U.N. SPECIAL PROCEDURES ARE LACKING. WE NOTE THAT FOLLOWING EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN ABOUT OFFICIAL REACTIONS TO CIVIL DISTURBANCES IN TIBET, THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES EVENTUALLY ALLOWED CANADIAN OFFICIALS AND OTHERS ACCESS TO THE CAPITAL, LHASA.