

- (3) that while housing will need increased international assistance, national governments should give housing a higher priority in order to meet pressing requirements.

My Government co-sponsored with other governments in this Committee a resolution urging coordination of United Nations assistance in the field of housing. We understand that the Secretary-General has been obtaining the advice of housing experts on management, organization and administration of international programmes in housing and we are looking forward with great interest to the report on these studies.

As I have said before, my Government had the honour of participating for the first time in the work of the Commission on Human Rights and took a particular interest in the preparation of the Draft Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination. I would like to impress on other delegates the spirit of objectivity which guides the Commission in the preparation of original drafts. I think, Mr. Chairman, that we should all try to appreciate the amount of hard work and the genuine spirit of cooperation which animates the proceedings of the Commission in the drafting of texts which are forwarded to this Committee for consideration. We should never lose sight of the fact that the Human Rights Commission is composed of senior governmental representatives, many of whom have had long experience with these subjects.

Another aspect of the Report which we would like to mention briefly is the reference to the excellent work on Capital Punishment prepared by Mr. Marc Ancel. In this connection, I would like to state that Canadian domestic legislation in this regard has been subjected to considerable changes in the past few years. As a result of amendments to our criminal code, the death penalty now applies in Canada only to very few capital crimes in extreme circumstances. It is therefore with considerable dismay that we hear of the death penalty being applied in certain countries for economic crimes. Such practices to us are more reminiscent of the feudal period of history than of the world in which we live and of the world that we are planning for tomorrow.