

promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion". In December 1966, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the International Covenants on Human Rights. The Canadian Government voted for the Covenants because we support their purpose, which is to give effect by means of the binding obligations of international treaties to the principles embodied in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948. We are now, in consultation with the provinces, considering the implications of ratifying them.

The first Covenant concerns economic, social and cultural rights. Many of its provisions relate to matters which fall largely within the sphere of the provinces, but others, such as those dealing with conditions of work or standards of living, are also the responsibility of the Federal Government. The second Covenant, on civil and political rights, largely pertains to the federal field, but the right to liberty and security or the equality of men and women, for example, also require action by the provinces.

The Covenants quite reasonably specify that a federal state which chooses to ratify them cannot subsequently claim to be exempt from carrying out their provisions because of conflicting domestic jurisdictions. They therefore provide an excellent example of the problems which we must solve in Canada in meeting our international obligations. I think we can do so in a manner which will be in the interests of all Canadians. As I have mentioned, the Federal Government has already started consultations with the provinces about ratification.

To celebrate International Human Rights Year in 1968, the United Nations has asked member states to ratify as many of the Human Rights conventions as possible. The Government is at present studying the possibility of ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, adopted by the United Nations in December 1965. In August 1966, Canada signed this convention to indicate our support for the efforts of the international community to eliminate the evils of racial discrimination. Again, as many of the provisions of the convention fall within provincial jurisdiction, we are consulting with the provinces as to the implications of ratifying this instrument. Thanks to the co-operation of provincial authorities, I believe the Government will be able to announce a decision on ratification at the latest during 1968.

The Federal Government has also tried to accommodate, as far as possible, the special interests which some provinces may have in the conduct of Canada's bilateral relations with other countries. As an example of how this can be done, I might mention the accord-cadre signed with France in November 1965, on education and culture. Under this agreement, it is possible for individual provinces and France to develop administrative arrangements to facilitate cultural and educational exchanges, subject to the approval of the Federal Government. There are many ways consistent with our Constitution and the existence of one Canada in the world in which the provinces' particular interest in Canada's bilateral relations can be taken into account and developed.

Co-operation between the federal and provincial governments is also desirable in the field of external aid. Canada is playing an increasingly important role in the provision of economic and technical assistance to the