

Rights Prize for his remarkable contribution to the furtherance of human rights. Professor Humphrey, and other Canadians, have worked over the years to develop and codify solid principles in this area. Although it can be said that a good deal of the codifying at the United Nations has now been done, Canada intends to continue playing an active part in preparing new instruments for areas in which existing instruments do not provide sufficient guarantees, such as, for example, protection of the rights of children and of native peoples.

In the future, however, we plan to devote more and more attention to developing and improving mechanisms by which to apply and monitor international instruments used in connection with human rights. We are convinced that violations of human rights are more often a result of failure to comply with the existing international standards rather than of the absence of such standards. For this reason, Canada has begun to consult and to negotiate with other UN member states to consider changes in the financing of certain bodies in charge of seeing that the international instruments are applied. These bodies are often insufficiently funded, and their workload is sometimes too great for them to complete their mandate. This is why my government has acted in increasing the resources available for the Working Group on Disappeared Persons. In spite of many obstacles this group, which was formed on a Canadian initiative, has done a remarkable job of handling one of the most flagrant violations of human rights. Canada continues to encourage the efforts of this body, and I am pleased to mention the project prepared by Acadia University, with government assistance, to reinforce the Working Groups on Disappeared Persons. Through this program, Canada is reaffirming its support for an important United Nations mechanism.

Canada's interest in the orderly operation of committees monitoring the application of treaties is also seen in the value we place in our presence, in the person of Mr. Peter Burns, University of British Columbia, on the ten-member committee in charge of applying the Convention Against Torture.

Unfortunately, although we have international instruments on human rights and mechanisms to apply them, it must be acknowledged that human rights continue to be violated in many parts of the world. One need only mention some recent events to see the need for constant vigilance to ensure respect for human rights and for more