

Canadians also share the concern you describe in your report on the work of the United Nations for the "vast and tragic humanitarian problems" in Indochina. It is our hope that your efforts in recent months, including the conference in Geneva, will spur the international community into action to end this deplorable situation. The gratification one can realize from the substantial humanitarian response, in Canada and elsewhere, to the plight of the unfortunate refugees is insignificant in comparison to the horror with which one must view these tragic events and their consequences.

Again in Indochina, the international community is dismayed by the tragic famine now afflicting the entire Kampuchean people. From the outset, Canada has strongly supported UNICEF and the ICRC* in their efforts to establish an international relief operation for Kampuchea. To this end, Canada has made an initial contribution of \$5 million to the UNICEF/ICRC program. Apart from a response to the urgent humanitarian concerns, Canada will support any initiative to seek a political solution through negotiations to the whole Indochina problem.

Canada is pleased to note in your report that you consider there have been positive developments during the past year to improve the effectiveness of the United Nations in the field of human rights. Canada participated actively in debates in UN fora and will continue to do so. I am particularly pleased to note your call for suggestions to strengthen the contribution of the Secretariat in this field. In my speech to the General Assembly, I proposed there be established the position of an Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights. It is my firm hope that the General Assembly will support the need for effective action in this area. Much is to be done and we must have the means to do it.

Finally, I wish to reiterate what I have said is the greatest task facing the UN for the remainder of this century-- to solve the problem of poverty; thereby providing enough material goods to ensure health and dignity to all. Canada will continue to give close attention to the efforts of the UN as it strives to reach this goal.

...3

*International Committee of the Red Cross.