

of refugees seems to be well under way, despite ownership"quarrels between returning Hutus and Tutsis (some of whom are former refugees) that have started to erupt and are even now creating local friction.

In the next several months, the fate of the perpetrators of genocide will confront Rwanda as a whole. The Rwandan judicial system, already overloaded, cannot resume functioning if former refugees are accused of genocide, without corroboration, in order to take revenge or resolve questions of ownership. An expansion of the current UN human rights monitoring program, which the Rwandan government has already agreed to, is crucial, if only to establish an atmosphere of trust and allow national reconciliation to begin.

Assistance from the international community should relieve immediate problems, but long-term "peace consolidation" programs should be established in order to eliminate the philosophy of exclusion and genocide that currently prevails in the country. Rwanda should determine independently the democratic system which ensures adequate representation for the two main ethnic groups. Disinterested assistance should follow the pace of the national reconciliation debate.

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada has the lead on the Rwanda resolution at both the Commission on Human Rights and the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly. This consensus resolution criticizes ongoing human rights abuse, addresses the aftermath of genocide, and attempts to reinforce the position of the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda. Canada has been a strong supporter of the International Criminal Tribunal and the Field Operation, to which we are contributing human rights monitors.

Canada has taken a position of leadership in coordinating international assistance to facilitate the return of refugees from Zaire and Tanzania. This initiative is part of the second phase of Canadian assistance that is designed to restore government programs that benefit the entire Rwandan population, the majority of which is Hutu.

Canada is continuing its efforts designed to support national reconciliation between the Hutus and the Tutsis, as well as the complete return of Rwandan refugees from Zaire, and now from Tanzania. Canada is assisting with the effort to combat the effects of the 1994 genocide and ensure that it is not repeated. To this end, Canada is concentrating its efforts, both bilaterally and multilaterally, on the restoration of the Rwandan judicial system.

An international conference on the causes of and possible solutions to the region's problems could allow the establishment of a zone of peace, stability and development. However, the conditions necessary to its success are, for the time being, a long way away.