

inhabitants with justice and equality. Canada has for years prevented the sale of Canadian military equipment to South Africa. We played a pivotal role under the Right Honourable John Diefenbaker in expelling South Africa from the Commonwealth, and have supported programmes designed to help the victims of apartheid. We severely curtailed the use of public funds for the promotion of trade with South Africa and very recently welcomed to our capital the heroic figure of Bishop Tutu. The government will shortly be looking at other means of expressing the deep opposition of most Canadians to the apartheid policies of the South African government.

While the scope for national action may be limited, the international situation is not hopeless or even unique. It is exactly that situation which has been faced in other areas of human rights, in which it has been possible to develop internationally-agreed standards, and to provide some international mechanisms to encourage the implementation of these standards. And, as I have indicated, the Commission on Human Rights is now engaged in drafting a declaration on the rights of minorities. Canada will work to advance this process as rapidly as possible, in the hope that we may have a declaration, as a focus for political action, within the next few years.

It is a political reality that these processes take time. So I hope that the international community will also explore some more immediate methods by which states might benefit from the experiences of others in developing the rights of minority groups. Professor Capotorti's study of 1979 is an excellent compendium of such experience, and I think we should look for some mechanism by which such information may continue to be collected and for means by which it may be made freely available to states. The appropriate agency for such work is the United Nations Centre for Human Rights in Geneva which, through its Advisory Services Program, has expanded its capacity to assist member states.

In some of these situations, and currently in the case of Cyprus, the U.N. Secretary-General has used his good offices to help the parties achieve some accommodation or reconciliation. Canada fully supports such efforts, but member states themselves, acting together, must do more to seeking realistic solutions to problems involving the rights of minorities, and to encourage and assist nations to adopt these solutions.