

AND PROVIDE A RAPID, EFFECTIVE RESPONSE. THE POTENTIAL VALUE OF SUCH A CAPACITY WAS GRAPHICALLY ILLUSTRATED LAST SUMMER DURING A CRISIS IN BURUNDI, WHERE ATROCITIES RESULTED IN AN EXODUS INTO NEIGHBOURING STATES AND TO THE EVENTUAL INVOLVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES. THE ABSENCE OF AN EFFECTIVE, CENTRALIZED RESPONSE ON THE PART OF THIS ORGANIZATION HAS NOW BEEN REMEDIED THROUGH THE EARLY-WARNING UNIT BASED AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK. BUT IT IS A COMPARATIVELY SMALL UNIT, WHICH CAN BE BUILT INTO AN EFFECTIVE FORCE ONLY THROUGH THE UNDERSTANDING OF MEMBER STATES AND AN INFUSION OF THEIR POLITICAL WILL: AS MR. JAMES JONAH HAS COGENTLY ARGUED IN HIS STATEMENT TO THE COMMISSION, THE UNIT MERITS REINFORCEMENT AND STRENGTHENING IF IT IS TO PERFORM ITS ESSENTIAL COORDINATING FUNCTIONS IN A TIMELY WAY.

SIMILARLY, CANADA VALUES THE MECHANISMS WHICH THE COMMISSION HAS ESTABLISHED OVER THE PAST DECADE, AND IN PARTICULAR THE COUNTRY RAPORTEURS AND THE SPECIAL RAPORTEURS ON THEMATIC ISSUES. THE REPORTS ON CHILE AND EL SALVADOR ARE ESPECIALLY TIMELY, IN VIEW OF IMPENDING POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN BOTH COUNTRIES. THE QUESTION OF AFGHANISTAN IS NOW A MATTER OF CENTRAL CONCERN REQUIRING CONTINUING VIGILANCE. WE HAVE PROGRESSED IN OUR DEVELOPMENT OF FACT-FINDING PROCEDURES SO THAT, AT THE PRESENT TIME, ONLY ONE COUNTRY - IRAN - REFUSES TO LEND ITS COOPERATION TO THIS BODY. WE HAVE SOME CONCERNS