

of conscience, religious intolerance, technical assistance on human rights through the U.N. Advisory Services programs, and a possible declaration on the right of individuals to promote human rights. We shall continue to pursue these issues.

The delegation played an active part in negotiating all these resolutions, and played a leading role in several. There are some limits to how much an observer should speak, but the Canadian delegation spoke on most important issues.

One item in which Canada played an important negotiating role was that of the right of individuals to promote and protect their universally-recognized human rights. While we take this for granted, as part of the freedom of speech, it is a proposal which frightens many regimes, and meets with considerable opposition at the Commission. A resolution was nevertheless adopted establishing a working group to draft a declaration on this subject, and Canada will contribute to this work at the Forty-Second Session.

Another notable action of the Commission was the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on Torture. Coming hard on the heels of the adoption of the Convention against Torture, this demonstrates clearly the recognition in the Commission that it is not enough to enshrine rights in legal instruments; active measures must be taken to protect these rights. This action by the Commission may help to compensate for the lack of more complete implementation arrangements within the Convention itself.

While it was established that Canada did not have to be a member to play a full role, it remains the policy of the government to seek re-election to the Commission as soon as possible. I know that many would prefer that Canada was continuously a full member, but the limited membership of the Commission and the allocation of seats by regional groups makes this impossible. We shall be limited to observer status for at least another year, but our experience at the recent session has shown that this will give us ample scope for maintaining Canada's interests, and for expressing our views.