

special significance as the General Assembly is in the final stages of its consideration of the implementation articles and final clauses and it appears likely that it will complete its consideration of the two Covenants at this Session.

Another recent milestone in the human rights field was the approval late last year of the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. I am pleased to recall that Canada signed this important instrument several months ago and is now studying closely the question of Canadian ratification of the Convention.

Canada and Canadians have also played what we hope is a useful part in the preparations for the International Year for Human Rights in 1968. As I said in my statement to the General Assembly in September, "We have decided that the most useful contribution we could make would be to subject our own record and practices to critical examination, drawing on all the resources of the community for this purpose. Complacency is a disease we all suffer from. Our objective, therefore, will be to remove the vestiges of discrimination involving race, creed, or sex, and to strengthen protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms by a continuing process of education and by subjecting violations to exposure and public attention. I am confident that we will be able to carry out a programme of this kind successfully because of the enthusiastic support for the cause of human rights which is displayed by voluntary organizations in Canada".

We may take just pride in the work already accomplished by the United Nations to advance the cause of Human Rights. However, the approval of international and national legislation to guarantee the rights and liberties of men and women everywhere will be meaningless unless each and everyone of us are prepared to examine within our hearts and minds our own record in this field. We must strive unceasingly to put into practice the noble words of the opening paragraph of the preamble to the Universal Declaration that "recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world".