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Preface

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PREFACE

The first issue of the *Notre Dame Lawyer* each year explores recent developments in the area of civil and human rights. Traditionally, the *Lawyer's* primary emphasis has been on the development of individual rights and freedoms in the United States.

The past decade, however, has been marked by an increasingly less provincial attitude among the community of nations towards human rights issues. Nations are no longer merely concerned with the rights and freedoms of their own citizens, but also vigorously protest the conduct of other nations that allegedly violates human rights.

This phenomenon has been particularly pronounced in the United States since the inauguration of President Jimmy Carter. President Carter has consistently asserted his personal conviction that every nation is obliged to respect and protect the individual rights of its citizens. This conviction has become a basic tenet of the Carter Administration's foreign policy, as evidenced by the President's Commencement Address delivered at the University of Notre Dame on May 22, 1977.

The President's address also illustrates that the University of Notre Dame has itself become a leading forum for the exposition of views concerning the role of the United States in the field of international human rights. That the 1977 Civil Rights Lectures, sponsored annually by the Center for Civil Rights of the Notre Dame Law School, were delivered as part of a conference on Human Rights and American Foreign Policy further evidences the University's leadership position. This international symposium explored the development of human rights around the world, examined the role of American foreign policy in that development, and suggested means by which additional advances might be secured.

The University's leadership role in the area of human rights is, in turn, largely a result of the example and guidance provided by the Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., President of the University and former chairman of the United States Commission on Civil Rights. For more than two decades, Father Hesburgh has been a leading international spokesman concerning the universal applicability of basic human rights principles, and has stressed that the free world is under a moral obligation to transform those principles into a living reality around the world.

For these reasons, Issue One of Volume 53 is devoted to a global assessment of civil and human rights. It is hoped that the following materials will contribute to a more meaningful understanding of civil and human rights in an international context. Such an understanding cannot but foster a deeper appreciation of the individual rights and liberties enjoyed by the American people, and will hopefully allow us to recognize, in some measure, our individual and national responsibility to the cause of human dignity around the world.

Joseph F. Winterscheid
Editor-in-Chief

