

is far from perfect. But on balance it is very positive. As for the NGOs there has been a rapid rise in their number around the world. They are making a major contribution, but of course they are all imperfect.

To conclude, as I have said earlier, I simply cannot believe how far we have come since 1973. Who would have thought even a few years ago that the Soviet Union would disappear without a war, that Blacks and Whites would shake hands in South Africa, and that we now receive human rights visitors from China? And Internet is all over the place. The world is much smaller than ever before, and the human rights cause is on the march. Without exaggeration I personally feel human rights has become the authentic world revolution, democratic, peaceful and very effective so long as we keep it honest. The same policy for every person in the world, with no exceptions.

Now how does the foregoing relate to Muslims in the U.S. and around the world? As I said earlier, I have come to feel that Muslims now have a major potential to help the world. If support for human rights makes significant progress under Islam we will all benefit. If Muslim women's rights make major progress the entire human race will benefit. So I hope that we can all work together on behalf of world human rights regardless of whether we agree or disagree with one or another aspect of USG policy. I am convinced that this is the best chance the human race has ever had, and if you care enough you can make a difference. For those of you who have suggestions for improving human rights policy the State Department is available for conversations. The same is true of Congress and the NGOs. And I would strongly recommend that many of you seriously consider making human rights work your life career.