

freedom in Hungary. This note also called the attention of the Government of Hungary to the fact that this policy appeared to violate obligations to secure enjoyment of human rights to which Hungary was pledged under the Treaty of Peace of 1947. No reply was received to the Canadian note. I have listened attentively to the statement of the United States Delegate this afternoon and his reference to the shock the whole world felt at the treatment of Cardinal Mindszenty as a common criminal. I cannot over-emphasize this shock—indeed the word “shock” is an understatement—the people of my country felt at this and the trials of the Protestant pastors.

On April 2, 1949, the Canadian Government associated itself with the United Kingdom and the United States in protests to Hungary and Roumania. In the case of Bulgaria, the Canadian Government requested that the United States and United Kingdom Governments inform Bulgaria that the Canadian views were similar to those expressed by the United Kingdom and United States regarding violation by Bulgaria of the clauses of the Peace Treaties providing for the protection of basic human rights.

Shortly afterwards, at the second part of the Third Session of the General Assembly, an item was placed on the agenda at the request of the Delegations of Australia and Bolivia regarding the suppression of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Bulgaria and Hungary. On April 30, as you are all aware, the Assembly adopted by a substantial majority a resolution which, among other things, noted with satisfaction the measures taken by several governments signatory to the Peace Treaties with Bulgaria and Hungary, and expressed the hope that steps should be diligently taken in accordance with the treaties “in order to ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms”. The resolution also drew the attention of the two Governments to their obligations under the Peace Treaties including the obligation to cooperate in the settlement of these questions. Canada voted in favour of this resolution. This question has been retained on the agenda of the present session, and we now have a further item in respect to similar violations by Roumania.

In our judgment, ample evidence is available to indicate beyond any doubt that these states have misused their power in order to deprive or curtail the individuals under their jurisdiction of their inherent natural right to their own beliefs. I need not dwell on the ruthless, arbitrary measures which these states have employed and continue to employ.

In the resolution which is now before this Committee, the question is not, therefore, whether the Governments of Bulgaria, Hungary and Roumania have been conducting activities designed to suppress the fundamental freedoms of human society.

The real question which the Committee is called upon to decide is the procedure that should be followed in order to clearly establish that the activities of these Governments constitute in fact a breach of the obligations assumed by them under the Peace Treaties. The Treaties signed by each of these Governments, Article 2 in the case of Bulgaria and Hungary, and Article 3 in the case of Roumania, obligate these states to guarantee to all persons under their jurisdiction, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, the enjoyment of human rights and of fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, of press and publication, religious worship, political opinion and of public meeting. Furthermore, Article 36 of the Peace Treaty with Bulgaria, Article 40 of the Treaty with Hungary, and Article 38 of the Treaty with Roumania, provide a machinery for the settle-