

not and shall not take any steps to discourage the repatriation to their places of origin of all persons who are willing to accept repatriation. If there are Ukrainians or other workers in displaced persons camps who will return freely to the fields and forests of eastern Europe, we earnestly hope that they will do so. Countries of origin are welcome to every refugee who will accept repatriation willingly, provided neither force nor guile are used to influence individual decisions.

I can go further, Mr. Chairman, and say that as far as Canada is concerned, residents of my country, either refugees or otherwise, are, under the laws of Canada, at perfect liberty to leave Canada tomorrow and to go and live in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic for instance, or in any other part of the world. Indeed, within the past two years, representatives in Canada of U.S.S.R. and of Yugoslavian interests have gone about freely on Canadian soil and gathered together groups of people of European origin whom they have led back to the U.S.S.R. or Yugoslavia. Not only have these persons been free to go, they have also been allowed to carry with them the resources, money, and machinery, which they had accumulated on Canadian territory. There has been some talk here, Mr. Chairman, of slavery in the forests of Canada. Will my Ukrainian colleague tell me that I could go freely into the Ukraine and ask people to emigrate to Canada; and even if I were permitted to organize such a migration, would the persons whom I persuaded to migrate be permitted to bring with them to my country whatever possessions they may have managed to accumulate in the Ukraine? Until my Ukrainian colleague can give me such assurances, he has little right to come here and talk of slavery in Canada. No refugee, of Ukrainian origin or otherwise, is enslaved in the forests of my country and anyone who doubts this fact is at liberty to go there and see for himself. I invite my Ukrainian colleague to do so and until he has made his observations, we should hear less in this Committee of slavery.

There has been some talk also about refugees being exploited in the labour market of Canada. Mr. Chairman, the labour conditions in my country are open to examination at any time. As far as refugees are concerned, they have been assured the right to work in Canada at prevailing rates of wages and under existing labour regulations. Those regulations are established in a free labour market in which free labour unions have the right to organize. In return for the assurance of employment, the refugees have in some cases entered into agreements to do work which has been offered them for stated periods of a short duration. It is nothing new in history for men to enter into agreements to undertake specified work in return for certain remuneration. Such agreements are a matter of everyday practice. They have the force only which the law gives to any contract amongst citizens. They do not impose a form of servitude nor do they establish inferior working conditions. I am sure that my Ukrainian colleague will not wish me to enter here upon a comparison, in terms of purchasing power or in terms of freedom of movement, of the conditions of labour of refugees in Canada and in other countries. I would, however, be quite happy to have such a comparison made.

It is a sad reflection, however, that the fortunes of these unhappy peoples should become the occasion for controversy in the United Nations. We regard them as genuine refugees, cast adrift by the flood of war which has overtaken their homelands, torn from their moorings, without hope