

which all here are familiar, have followed this general rule. They continue to appeal to us, not only because of the historic events with which they are associated, but also because they are written in clear simple terms and can be readily understood by every man. By way of example, for English speaking peoples, the rights enumerated in the 1689 Bill of Rights are assertive, lucid statements of principle which continue to inspire in the minds of people who are free a fundamental respect for the liberties of the individual. To French speaking peoples, and even more relevant to the topic we are discussing is Article II of the Declaration of the Rights of Man in 1789, which, translated into English, had this to say: "The unrestrained communication of thoughts and opinions being one of the most precious rights of man, every citizen may speak, write and publish freely, provided he be responsible for the abuse of this liberty, in the cases determined by law".

In my own country, which has always had the basic freedoms guaranteed by English Common Law and the Quebec Civil Code, Parliament enacted in 1960 a Canadian Bill of Rights which states that "It is hereby recognized and declared that in Canada there have existed and shall continue to exist without discrimination by reason of race, national origin, colour, religion or sex, the following human rights and fundamental freedoms, namely: the freedom of speech; the freedom of the press". I shall not, Mr. Chairman, go on to enumerate those freedoms which are irrelevant to Article 19 of the Covenants.

As a newcomer to this Committee, Sir, I trust I may be forgiven, if throughout our discussion of this article, I have sometimes had the impression that we have been more concerned with the abuses of freedom of information, than with our efforts to ensure that everyone shall have the right to freedom of opinion and expression. The experience of history