

Moreover, when the United Nations enquires about freedom of religion throughout the world, to mention but one of the basic rights, surely it is not enough for any country to answer that it has legislation in regard to that freedom. The United Nations knows formal laws can be a mere facade disguising the unpleasant truth that government policies in some areas of the world deliberately aim at making it in fact most difficult freely to practice religion. The United Nations' interest therefore goes deeper and searches to find whether or not the institutions and forms of worship and the right to use them freely are in reality unhindered by governmental interference and in fact conform to the spiritual needs of the group of individuals concerned as those needs are defined by those groups.

Similarly, when we speak of the freedoms of speech and thought which are hallowed in Articles 18, 19, 20 and 21, to name but some of the other great provisions of the Declaration, we are expressing United Nations' interest in facts, not in mere protestations of good faith. Moreover, we have in mind what is perhaps the most essential freedom of all -- the indispensable right to choose the form and substance of the government peoples are prepared to accept in authority over them. This complex of rights relates to the equally important freedom to choose not to be subjected to foreign domination. This is the right of self-determination which the Declaration on colonial independence has singled out for particular emphasis. In doing so, that Declaration has solemnly proclaimed that peoples of all races and creeds whatever their colour and wherever they may live have the right to choose not to exist under the domination of another country. Here, too, United Nations' interest seeks to remove the facade and to see the reality whether it be domination by overt military oppression, by military oppression by subversion, or by political control lying exclusively in the hands of one party.