

liamentarian for some 15 days during the former regime in Argentina, and, after being found, was held in prison under very abhorrent circumstances for over one year. On his release, which was effectuated in part through the representations of the special committee of the IPU, he was exiled in Venezuela and France for six years before being allowed to return to his native country. You can appreciate why he has a very real and personal interest in assuring that the work of the special committee is as effective as possible.

Since our subcommittee will make a confidential report to the full committee at its meeting in Geneva at the end of January, I cannot give any details with respect to it at this time. I can only say that on closer examination these situations always seem to be far more complex than they seemed to be previously, even on the basis of abundant documentation. However, I am cautiously optimistic that we can look forward to the release of the parliamentarians involved in the not too distant future.

Honourable senators, the most recent report which the special committee presented to the Sofia conference contains the cases of 52 parliamentarians from eight different countries. They include, for instance, 28 Chilean parliamentarians who have been exiled for many years and two others who have simply disappeared; four parliamentarians who have been assassinated in Colombia in circumstances which give rise to the suspicion that the police, military personnel and/or intelligence service members may have been actively or tacitly involved; one parliamentarian in Honduras who was assassinated this year shortly after testifying before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in a case concerning four earlier "disappearances" in his country; and seven parliamentarians who were arrested in Malaysia, five of whom have been detained without trial for over a year. There are several other cases of detention under dubious circumstances.

The effectiveness of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in bringing justice to bear in these cases is closely linked with the efforts of individual national groups and parliaments, and even individual parliamentarians. The resolution adopted in 1976 stipulates that:

National groups will be required to report to the next meeting of the Council on all action taken with respect to IPU reports on human rights violations against parliamentarians.

Our Canadian group has taken up this challenge. After each conference we send a copy of the report of the special committee to the Secretary of State for External Affairs for his information and such action as he considers appropriate. We meet and keep in touch on a regular basis with the person in that department who is charged with overseeing all human rights matters. Furthermore, we expect to set up a procedure whereby the Speakers of our two houses will communicate directly with the Speakers of the parliaments of the countries involved, conveying not only the concerns of the Parliament of Canada but their hope that the cases about which they are communicating will be speedily and happily resolved.

[Senator Neiman.]

● (1420)

To digress for a moment, I should like to pay a heartfelt and sincere tribute, in which I am sure all honourable senators will join, to a distinguished Canadian, Professor John P. Humphrey, Emeritus Professor of International Law at McGill University, who was recently awarded a United Nations Human Rights prize on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He has for many years been active in the field of international human rights and was the first director of the United Nations Human Rights Division. I have just read a long article on his career, which notes that he was responsible for a great deal of the preparatory work on and was in fact the author of much of the final wording of the Universal Declaration, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. I have attended many meetings over which Professor Humphrey has presided, and he has always appeared to be an inspiration and example to everyone who has heard him. On behalf of those who continue to need to have their human rights protected, I wish Professor Humphrey good health and a long and productive life in order to continue his work in a field where so much remains to be done.

In closing, I should like to add that occasionally committee members feel frustration or regret—especially when appeals are made directly to them on behalf of the many other prisoners who are not parliamentarians—that their mandate is not as broad as the one originally sought. We can only hope that the appeals we make on behalf of parliamentarians to various countries will have a spillover and beneficial effect for the others who are being unjustly treated or detained.

In this month of December, when we commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, I urge all honourable senators to read the report of the special committee, which was annexed as an appendix to the general report already tabled by Senator Nurgitz.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear!

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, if no other honourable senator wishes to speak, this inquiry is considered debated.

## COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

### SECOND REPORT ADOPTED

The Senate proceeded to consideration of the second report of the Committee of Selection (Speaker *pro tempore*), presented in the Senate on Wednesday, December 28, 1988.

**Hon. Orville H. Phillips:** Honourable senators, I move that the report be now adopted.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** It is moved by the Honourable Senator Phillips, seconded by the Honourable Senator MacDonald (Cape Breton), that this report be now adopted.

Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Senators:** Agreed.