

The President of the General Assembly was referring to that same tragic problem when he stated recently, on the occasion of Human Rights Day, that the objectives and purposes of the United Nations would never be achieved until all discriminatory measures have been eliminated and persecution ended.

In the opinion of my delegation the President of the General Assembly has touched on one of the most unfortunate dilemmas presently facing the United Nations. For indeed if we compare some of the statements which are still being made within the United Nations with the events that are taking place in certain countries, we cannot help but think about that part of the New Testament which refers to the man who would take the mote from his neighbour's eye but could not see the beam in his own. To put it in plain language I want to refer to those representatives in this Committee who have busied themselves in the last two months with depicting the most gruesome pictures of the manner in which their neighbours have practised the observance of human rights while they themselves have shown by all evidence available that they are guilty of the most flagrant discriminations and of the most inhuman persecutions.

It is because of this ever-deepening gulf between the words spoken by these representatives and the actions of their governments that my delegation finds it necessary today to draw the attention of the members of this Committee more particularly to Section V of the chapter of the report under consideration. This section deals, as we know, with the question of the prevention of discrimination and the protection of minorities, and the events which have occurred in the course of the last year in certain countries do not allow us to pass it without notice.

It is not the first time that the representative of Canada at the United Nations considers it necessary to make a statement of this kind. For myself, I have personally had occasion to protest, in the name of the people of Canada, at the Ad Hoc Committee of the fourth session of the General Assembly, against a venal disregard of human rights and of the fundamental principles of freedom which was then current in Bulgaria, Hungary and Roumania. Since then, at practically every session of the General Assembly and even of the agencies of the United Nations, we have heard the voices of many delegates raised in protest against the fate dealt behind the Iron Curtain to these basic principles of justice and liberty. One would have hoped that under such a pressure of protest, the governments concerned would have lent an ear and that the wishes of the free people would have been heard in some degree at least.

Alas as we all know, the reaction was quite different and is still quite different. Not only have discriminatory measures continued to exist in the three countries which I have just mentioned but they have even spread to the other countries of the Soviet bloc. Not only has the intensity of the discriminatory measures and of the persecutions not decreased but it has reached such a level of frenzy that it can easily be compared to that which existed in the darkest hours of the Nazi and Fascist regimes.