

"I say that because these facts of history in the Commonwealth and other countries invite comparison with the domination over peoples and territories, sometimes gained under the guise of liberation, but always accompanied by the loss of political freedom. How are we to reconcile the tragedy of the Hungarian uprising in 1956 with Chairman Khrushchov's confident assertion of 23 September in this Assembly? Mr. Khrushchov said:

'We have stood, we stand, and always will stand, for the right of the peoples of Africa, just as those of other continents, to establish whatever regime they may please in their countries on attaining their freedom from colonial oppression'.

That I accept--and I hope that these words mean a change of attitude for the future on the part of those he represents.

"What of Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia? What of the freedom-loving Ukrainians and many other Eastern European peoples which I shall not name for fear of omitting some of them? Mr. Khrushchov went further and said, in the same meeting:

'... Complete and final abolition of the colonial system in all its forms and manifestations is demonstrated by the entire course of the history of the world in recent decades'.

There can be no double standard in international affairs.

"I ask the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. to give to those nations under his domination the right of free elections--to give them the opportunity to determine the kind of government they want under genuinely free conditions. If these conclusions were what his words meant, for they must apply universally, then indeed will there be new action to carry out the obligations of the United Nations Charter; then indeed will there be new hope for all mankind".

I need hardly add that the U.S.S.R. did not respond to this invitation. No evidence has come to the United Nations to suggest an easing of the intolerable situation in the Soviet empire.

Spotlight on Soviet Empire

Consistent with the position outlined by the Prime Minister, the Canadian Government has continued to urge that the focus of United Nations attention be brought to bear on conditions within the Soviet empire, and more particularly on the denial of human rights and fundamental freedoms. These conditions should be placed in the context of all Assembly discussions about these rights and freedoms and about the status of dependent people everywhere. Our aim is to provide perspective for the strident demands which the U.S.S.R. makes on behalf of others for rights and benefits denied to subject people of the Soviet empire.