

which disturb the harmony of international relations. In this task we need the cooperation of all nations. But how can we perform this task effectively when the leaders of some states appear to be engaged in an assault upon essential rights and freedoms, and above all when they fail to show respect for freedom of conscience, the basic liberty upon which all others depend. Perhaps our protests and the expressions of world opinion which are heard in this Committee will fall upon deaf ears and hardened consciences. But I am sure that eventually the earnest desire of mankind to protect the freedom of conscience and of the churches through which that conscience is expressed will prevail. It is to be hoped that the present discussion in the Assembly will at least focus the attention of the Governments of Bulgaria and Hungary on the aroused opinion of the world, and we would hope this might influence their attitude and their policies.

The question immediately before the Committee is what kind of remedies should be sought for the kind of situation which has been brought to our attention. First of all, as I have suggested, there must be full and free discussion of these fundamental issues. Secondly, I believe that the Assembly should express its deep concern at the grave charges which have been made with regard to the suppression of human rights and freedoms in Bulgaria and Hungary. I believe also that the Assembly should give its support to the steps which have already been taken by the Governments which are signatories to the Peace Treaties with Bulgaria and Hungary in their efforts to find remedies through the procedures laid down in the Peace Treaties with these two states. As the draft resolution submitted by the distinguished Representative of Bolivia embodies the approach which commends itself to the Canadian Delegation, we shall give it our support.

Appendix 9

Canadian Statement, Ad Hoc Political Committee, October 4, 1949: Human Rights in Eastern Europe

The Canadian Delegation wholeheartedly associates itself with the draft resolution now before this Committee, requesting the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion on points connected with the interpretation of certain articles of the Peace Treaties with Bulgaria, Hungary and Roumania. The resolution refers particularly to the question as to whether the diplomatic exchanges between the Governments of Bulgaria, Hungary and Roumania on the one hand, and certain signatories to the Peace Treaties on the other, disclose disputes which are appropriate for settlement under the various articles of the Peace Treaties. I do not need to recall before this Committee the contents of these exchanges, other than to say that they raise the general question of observance in Bulgaria, Hungary and Roumania of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

I would like to explain briefly the position taken by my Government with respect to this matter. On February 2, 1949, the text of a note was made public which had been sent by the Canadian Government to the Hungarian Government protesting strongly against a policy of repression and religious persecution which appeared designed to destroy religious