

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement No. 70

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Statement made in the General Assembly by the  
Canadian Representative, Mrs. Sally Merchant.

The Canadian delegation is happy to welcome the adoption by the United Nations of the Convention barring discrimination against women. This action by the United Nations is an important milestone in the long process of upholding the rights of women. Another important quarantor, as far as Canada is concerned, of women's rights as to men is the institution of Parliament which watches over those who control power and protect the rights of all citizens.

It was only yesterday that the House of Commons of Canada marked a milestone in Parliamentary history--the 100th Anniversary of the meeting of the first Canadian Parliament on November 6, 1867. In associating the Canadian delegation with the observance of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Soviet Union, Canadians would wish to pay tribute to those contributions which have emerged from the Soviet Union in the past fifty years to peaceful living for all peoples throughout the world. Our thoughts naturally turn to the great performers of music of the Soviet Union, to their orchestras, to their incomparable ballet, to their theatre and to their poets and writers. These have brought joy and pleasure not only to their own people, but to audiences throughout the world. We also think of the contributions which have emerged from the Soviet Union in the realm of science and technology. These creative achievements merit highest recognition here, for they are important contributions to international co-operation and understanding for which the United Nations was created.

When we Canadians planned the celebration of our One Hundredth Anniversary we chose as the theme of the International Exhibition in Montreal "Man and his World" in order to bring out the essential need to recognize that we are all of one family, all sharing the fruits of creative achievement as well as the pains of human strife. We also recognized that Canada in celebrating our Centenary does so as a member of the international community to whom we owe so much, both for what we have achieved and what we hope for in the future. It is in this spirit that countries like the USSR and Canada, together with many other countries from all over the world, were able to co-operate so successfully at EXPO 67 in a great and inspiring tribute to "Man and his World." As the Prime Minister of Canada said,