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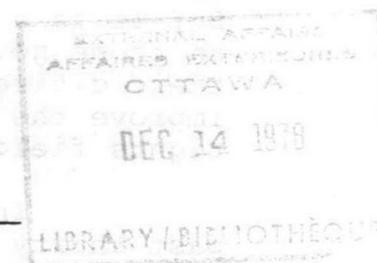
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STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER  
THE HONOURABLE ALLAN J. MACEachEN  
IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, DECEMBER 8, 1978

"THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS"



Mr. Speaker,

On December 10, 1948 the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Sunday is the thirtieth anniversary of that event. It should be used in Canada and all parts of the world as an occasion to review the progress or the lack of progress that has been made in these three decades towards guaranteeing human rights. More significantly, it must be used as an opportunity to identify what more can be done, both internationally and in Canada, to ensure that the rights and freedoms enunciated in the Universal Declaration are effectively enjoyed by all people.

The agreement thirty years ago on the principles of the Universal Declaration was a remarkable achievement by the international community, given the wide variations in political and social systems throughout the world. One of the people directly involved in that success was Dr. John P. Humphrey, a Canadian. In his former role as the Director of the United Nations Human Rights Division he oversaw the drafting of the Declaration. He is to speak on behalf of Canada at a special commemorative meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on December 11. The principles of the Declaration have been elaborated and defined in more than 20 international agreements.

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