

RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

TEXT OF STATEMENT IN EXPLANATION OF VOTE MADE BY CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE, MRS. SALLY MERCHANT, IN THE THIRD COMMITTEE ON THE DRAFT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

Statement No. 69

November 6, 1967.

Mr. Chairman,

Apart from Canada's position on the addition of the new paragraph, and the Saudi Arabian amendment, I would like to explain our position on one other point.

Canada was one of very few who voted against the 16-power amendment to the fourth paragraph, which limited the freedom guaranteed by the Convention to a freedom of religion or belief, rather than to the manifestation thereof. Canada regards the right to a manifestation of belief as of prime importance. The right to hold a belief without the right to manifest it is a hollow and meaningless right. Manifestation is the element that most requires the protection that a covenant offers. We voted with a very small minority to retain it.

We feel, Mr. Chairman, that there may be no real reason to take the time of the Committee to explain our vote regarding the U.S.S.R. and Nigerian amendment and the Saudi Arabian amendment. We feel that we have made our position abundantly clear throughout discussions in the Committee. Canada could not, and would not, support any addition or change in the preamble that diverted the purposes of a Convention on