



## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 52/58

HUMAN RIGHTS

Statement made on December 17, 1952, by the Acting Chairman of the Canadian Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Paul Martin, made in the Third Committee, on Chapter V of the Report of the Economic and Social Council on Human Rights

Once more the Third Committee of the General Assembly is called upon to review the work accomplished by the various agencies of the United Nations in the field of human rights. I do not believe it necessary for me to stress here that the question of human rights has become one of primary interest for the United Nations. The various agencies of this organization, taken together, devote close to half of their discussions to questions directly or indirectly related to this problem. Close to half of the resolutions adopted each year by the General Assembly and by the other agencies of the United Nations deal with the question of human rights. The delegation of Canada is in complete agreement with those delegations which insist that such a fundamental question can never receive too much attention. The question of human rights, after all, is the cornerstone of our Charter and has been proclaimed all over the world through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The numerous speeches that have been made within the United Nations since 1945 on this subject should not leave any doubt that the principle of the observance of human rights is accepted and recognized, without qualification, by all member states of the United Nations. The speeches made in this Committee in the course of the present session should, in fact, be sufficient in themselves to eliminate any doubt that could have existed as to the good intentions of governments in the field of human rights. In other words, the United Nations has been deluged with professions of faith and, to ascertain this, one has only to read, for example, the summary records of the Commission on Human Rights and of the sub-commission on the prevention of discrimination and the protection of minorities.

And yet if we glance at the introduction to the Report of the Economic and Social Council for the year 1951-52, we read the following:

"In the field of human rights, in spite of the progress achieved, the United Nations cannot be satisfied with the present situation. There are large areas of the world where the observance of essential human rights, personal liberty, freedom of expression, freedom from discrimination are regressing".