

in respect of race and colour is an essential principle of Commonwealth association."

As an illustration of Canadian concern for the rights and opportunities of indigenous people, the present Government of Canada has extended the franchise to all people of North American Indian origin. Canadian Indians now enjoy the rights and privileges of citizenship to the same degree as all other Canadians and there is nothing to prevent members of this or any other race from sitting as members of either House of the Canadian Parliament. Indeed, in 1958, the first Canadian Indian was appointed as a member of the Canadian Senate.

As a further protection for the rights of the indigenous population as well as for all other citizens, the Canadian Parliament recently enacted a Bill of Rights which, inter alia, reinforces the common law safeguards against any form of racial or religious discrimination.

Canada is itself a multi-racial state to some degree therefore, although we have had some problems of racial discrimination to solve in our own country, we can appreciate the difficulties which have troubled many lands. As the distinguished delegate from Afghanistan so usefully reminded us during the debate on the previous item, racial discrimination and denial of fundamental rights has not been confined to people of any one nation or continent, but is a tragically widespread phenomenon. However, we are convinced that the problems of a multi-racial society, whatever complications may exist, can never be solved by policies and practices which are based on the idea of racial superiority of one group of that society over another.

As Prime Minister Diefenbaker has said, apartheid has become the world's symbol of discrimination. While none of us, I humbly submit, ought to pretend that we are without fault or