

THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

STATEMENT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DAY,
DECEMBER 10TH, 1955, BY THE HONOURABLE
PAUL MARTIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE CANADIAN
DELEGATION TO THE TENTH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

FOR RELEASE IN ALL PAPERS OF
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1955

Today is the sixth anniversary of the adoption by the United Nations of one of the great charters of human liberties - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In this document are enshrined the aspirations of people everywhere towards realization of the heritage of man, with opportunity for all to achieve the full dignity of men and women living at peace in freedom and brotherhood.

The detailed statement of basic principles which comprises the declaration of human rights has not yet been accepted by all members of the United Nations, but already its influence has been felt throughout the world. Some of its terms are vague and ~~imprecise~~ and many question whether they can usefully and effectively be translated into a generally acceptable code for universal application, such as the draft international covenants on human rights are intended to provide. To the people of some lands the rights it asserts must appear incapable of realization except in a remote future which they may never have to enjoy. Yet still to all men of goodwill the declaration holds out the promise of a better, fuller life towards which to strive.

The Declaration of Human Rights defines the goal to be achieved and to each of us offers a challenge and an opportunity. We in Canada accept that challenge and welcome that opportunity, resolved to maintain within our own borders the rights which are our inheritance, and, in company with other states, to build for a future in which the principles of the declaration will be honoured and observed by all nations.
