

This is but a small part of the Soviet record of tyranny. And it is a sorry record for a nation holding great-power status in this organization. It lays bare the reasons why the U.S.S.R. and its supporters spend so much time in United Nations debates criticizing and condemning the actions of others.

It explains why the Soviet representatives on the Special Committee of Seventeen have engaged in tactics which could have no purpose but to disrupt the work of the Committee. Clearly, Soviet representatives were seeking to cover, with a smokescreen of violent attack against the Western powers, the ugly realities which exist within the sphere of Soviet imperialism. To divert attention from its own evil practices, the U.S.S.R. has long preached against the sins of others.

In keeping with its own tradition and outlook, Canada has warmly welcomed the steady development toward independence during the last two decades. We have sought to promote that development by exerting our influence in the direction of accommodation and orderly progress. We have been glad to assist the new nations to find a firm footing in economic and social stability.

Western and Soviet Records

Therefore, we cannot but deplore that the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, which has marked this period of United Nations achievement, has not spread to the areas under Soviet domination. The contrast between the record of the Western powers and that of the U.S.S.R. is clear for all to see. And the discrepancy between Soviet protestation and Soviet performance is no secret. We need look no farther East than the Berlin wall to see the determination with which the U.S.S.R. seeks to isolate oppressed people behind the Iron Curtain from the contagion of freedom.

The views which I have been expressing reflect no new departure on Canada's part. Speaking in the General Debate of this Assembly in September 1960, the Prime Minister of Canada sharply contrasted the record of the Western European powers with that of the U.S.S.R. Mr. Diefenbaker had the opportunity then to call on Chairman Khrushchov to make good his many professions of concern for the rights of dependent peoples by granting to the nations under his domination the right to choose their own leaders and form of government through free and secret elections. At that time, the Canadian Prime Minister said (and I quote):

"Indeed, in this Assembly the membership is composed in a very considerable measure of the graduates of empires, mandates and trusteeships of the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and other nations.

"I pause to ask this question: how many human beings have been liberated by the U.S.S.R.? Do we forget how one of the postwar colonies of the Soviet Union sought to liberate itself four years ago, and with what results?