

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement No. 63

November 1, 1967

RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE (Item 54)

Text of Statement made in the Third Committee  
by the Canadian Representative, Mrs. Sally  
Merchant      \*\*      Wednesday, November 1, 1967.

My delegation is obliged to voted against the addition of a new paragraph and against amendments by Argentina (A/C.3/L.1472) and by Pakistan (A/C.3/L.1471).

We find that the amendments make no basic change in the initial intention of the additional paragraph as proposed by the amendment of the USSR (A/C.3/L.1466).

Our position is th!s:

We are in this Committee drafting a provision to ensure religious freedom to every individual the world round. The introduction of a second goal--namely self-determination or elimination of colonialism carries the possibility of relegating religious freedom in some circumstances to a secondary position. We feel we cannot endorse that possibility. We will oppose any amendment which does not in our view hold religious tolerance as its prime goal.

We feel, with Jamaica, that we must oppose anything that is a digression from the purposes of the convention.