

Press Master

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(SIXTEENTH SESSION)

RELEASE ON DELIVERY

PRESS RELEASE NO. 9
October 16, 1961.

PRESS OFFICE
750 - 3rd Avenue
YU 6-5740

Statement by Mrs Jean Casselman, M.P.
Canadian Representative on the Third Committee,
on Monday, October 16, 1961

Item 2: Draft International
Covenants (Article 19 on Freedom
of Information.)



Mr. Chairman,

When we began our discussion on this article my Delegation indicated its preference for the existing text. I have listened with great interest to the many excellent speeches which have been made, reflecting as they do the various points of view held by different delegations on this important subject. It seems to me that despite these differences, which tend at times to obscure the main issue with which we are concerned, that there is a good deal of common ground. It is significant that we have accepted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which contains in Article 19 substantially the same provisions as those set forth in the first two paragraphs of Article 19 of the Covenants. With this in mind I should like, if I may, to take this opportunity to inform the Committee of the reasons why we prefer the text of Article 19 as it stands.

In dealing with a subject, by its very nature so diffuse and intangible, there is much to be said for trying to achieve a clear concise statement of the principles involved. The truly memorable declarations on freedom, with