

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



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COLONIALISM, WEST AND EAST

Partial notes for an address by Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker, to the Ethnic Groups, Toronto, November 22, 1961.

The United Nations has before it resolutions placed there by the newly-emerging states of Africa and Asia advocating freedom, self-determination and independence of colonial peoples.

The U.S.S.R., with its awful record for denying national freedom, self-determination and independence of so many peoples behind the Iron Curtain, has put forward a resolution.

For Communist Russia to pose as the champion of human liberty and the liberator of captive peoples is a complete travesty of truth.

The tirades of abuse by the U.S.S.R. on colonialism are designed to promote disturbance and furtherance of Communist domination abroad and to hide the subjugation of captive peoples.

Canada's concern over the problem of these persons is based on the demand that fundamental human rights and freedoms should be fully respected, including the national right of self-determination on grounds of race, colour and creed.

Canada's Concern

Although Canada has no direct involvement in colonial administration, Canadians have a genuine interest in wishing to promote the evolution from colony to nationhood for all subject peoples everywhere who desire that status and at a rate of development which is governed only by practical considerations of internal stability.

The preoccupation of new states with their problems of economic and social development is fully understandable. It is incumbent on all governments to be concerned with the well-being of their people and to seek for them improved standards of living. It is incumbent on Western nations to be conscious,