

2. That officers of the External Affairs Department and, if practicable, of the appropriate agency of the United Nations Organization be called to advise the Committee in regard to Canada's national and international participation and obligation in relation to heading (a).

3. Also, that officers of the Department of Justice be called in relation to heading (b).

4. That arrangements for hearing representations from interested organizations and for considering Bill No. 133. An Act to amend the Criminal Code (Illegal Organizations) be deferred are taken and your Steering Committee has given further consideration to the making of such arrangements.

All of which is submitted.

Now that, briefly stated, is the course of procedure we recommend to this committee.

Is there any discussion or does anyone wish to move that the report be adopted after which there can be a discussion?

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: To bring the matter to a head I move the adoption of the report.

Hon. Mr. BOUFFARD: I second the motion.

The CHAIRMAN: Moved by Senator McDonald and seconded by Senator Bouffard that the report be adopted. Is there any discussion?

I may say if this report is adopted we propose to have here at our next meeting, which we think should be next Tuesday, an officer or an official of the Department of External Affairs, and he will advise the committee what has been done at the United Nations, and what obligations Canada has assumed, and, perhaps, in some measure, the meaning of these obligations and he may be questioned by the members of the committee.

We propose also to get in touch now with Mr. J. P. Humphrey, head of the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Organization and ascertain whether or not he can be present on Wednesday or Thursday of next week to give us further information. I doubt whether any other witness on that phase would be required and I would then think we should proceed to hear the Department of Justice on the second paragraph with reference to the legal and constitutional situation in Canada respecting such rights.

By that time the steering committee ought to be able to make recommendations as to how we ought to proceed from that stage and what we ought to do about this bill that has been referred to us, when we will take it up, and what we will do about hearing representatives from interested organizations.

Mr. STEWART: Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, I may be permitted to say something here. I accept this agenda but it is a very short term agenda and I think your steering committee are in some doubt exactly as to the course which this committee as a whole should follow. My own feeling is this. There are thousands of people all across Canada who are looking to this committee in a very interested way. They expect something to come out of it but there is the distinct possibility that we may become bogged down in a morass of words and get nowhere. However, that is not the intention of anybody. I feel I would like to hear from the members of the committee as to what our objectives should be. For instance we have two objectives, one is the ultimate adherence to an international bill of rights and the other is the creation of a bill of rights in Canada. Those are long-term objectives and there may be short-term objectives such as suggesting to the government a draft of a constitution of a bill of rights to be sent to the international committee to help them in their deliberations. What should be our own immediate focal point? It is a thing which intrigues me very much and I would like to hear some expression from the other members.