

I have given just one example - a factual example which depends in no way on the right of the Ad Hoc Committee for its authenticity - to indicate that forced labour policies do in fact exist in certain countries of the world. I could give many other factual examples. It is these facts, and these alone, rather than the welter of irrelevant considerations that have been introduced in this debate that should be foremost in the minds of members of this Committee when they vote on the resolution now before us.

May I say a word in conclusion as to the reasons for urgency in this matter.

Why does the Canadian Delegation consider that action on the report of the Ad Hoc Committee is "a matter of urgency" as stated in the words of paragraph 7 of the draft resolution now before us? This is the crux of the problem which we are now considering; and the reason for urgency, in our opinion, lies in the simple fact that this problem of forced labour has become worse, not better, in the years since the Economic and Social Council first took cognizance of it. Why do I say this,? The problem of forced labour was first brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council at its sixth session in 1948; in the six year period 1948 - 1953 no less than six important nations of the world - some of them members of the United Nations - containing within their boundaries between 200 and 300 millions of peoples have passed legislation establishing and extending by law, under the guise of penal codes and labour codes and other enactments, systems of forced labour, which affect ever increasing numbers of once free people. Once again these are not matters of opinion: they are simple matters of fact as shown in the Ad Hoc Committee's report. The references to these numerous enactments and the dates on which they were passed are plainly stated and documented. In many areas during the past few years and documented. In many areas into existence, humanity has pushed forward the frontiers of freedom: but in the field of forced labour in 1948, in 1949, in 1950, in 1951, and 1952, humanity has marched backwards. These are the hard facts which give to this problem a sense of urgency which no delegation, sensitive to the sufferings of millions of our fellow human beings, can afford to ignore. These are the considerations which are foremost in the minds of the Canadian Delegation in voting for paragraph 7 of the resolution now before us.

....., the fact that the U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia, the Ukraine S.S.R., Poland thought it advisable to enter, at this stage of the debate, into the substance of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee in such details is, we would like to think, an indication that our view of the importance and urgency of this problem now before us appears to be shared by many other delegations around this table. There is at least general agreement as to the importance and urgency of the matter now before this Committee. The Canadian Delegation wishes to join with other delegations in an appeal to all members of the United Nations to cooperate with the Organization in studying the means and taking concrete steps toward the solution of the forced labour problem. In our view this is of such an humanitarian importance that it transcends ideological concepts and