

*External Affairs*

to do with an entirely different matter. I should like to devote a little time to the question of self-determination of nations.

I should like to begin by referring to a document which has not been adopted officially, but which I believe was one of the most important statements of policy which was published during the course of the second world war, namely, the Atlantic charter as it was known. I should like to quote just a few paragraphs from it because I believe that Canada could very well adopt that statement of policy as its external policy today. I believe it contains almost everything necessary to provide us with a proper guide in our approach and attitude toward other countries of the world. According to this document, which was proclaimed on August 14, 1941:

The President of the United States of America and the Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, representing His Majesty's government in the United Kingdom, being met together, deem it right to make known certain common principles in national policies of their respective countries on which they base their hopes for a better future for the world.

And these are the principles:

First, their countries seek no aggrandizement, territorially or other;

Second, the desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned;

The third one I consider to be most important for the purpose of what I have to say tonight:

They respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them;

Other principles are outlined in this declaration, but for the purpose of what I have to say this evening these three will lay the base. As I said a moment ago I believe we can quite properly adopt this statement

of policy as outlined in the Atlantic charter as Canada's foreign policy, because certainly if there is any country in the world that can subscribe to these first three principles that I have just placed on the record, it is Canada.

In addition to that, may I also point out that in the human rights commission, in its eighth session in 1952 the following principles were adopted. I shall read just a brief introduction:

The commission adopted the following resolutions:

1. Article for inclusion in the international covenants on human rights.

The commission on human rights  
Resolves to insert in the draft covenants on human rights, the following article on the right of peoples and nations to self-determination;

"1. All peoples and all nations shall have the right of self-determination, namely, the right freely to determine their political, economic, social and cultural status."

I will skip the next paragraph which relates to another matter and go to the third which reads:

The right of the peoples to self-determination shall also include permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence on the grounds of any rights that may be claimed by other states.

That, together with the declaration contained in the Atlantic charter, sets out the basic principles in so far as we are concerned, and I believe I can speak for all of us. We believe every nation in the world should have the right of self-determination, to choose the type of government they wish to have, the type of economic system they wish to operate, and to be sovereign and free within their own boundaries.

Reference has been made by other speakers during this debate to certain countries behind what is known as the iron curtain. Among those to which reference was made was the country known as the Ukraine. This evening I would like to spend a few minutes in dealing with that particular nation. I wish to assure hon. members that in spite of the fact that, as most hon. members probably know, my racial origin is Ukrainian, I do not approach this matter from a narrow point of view. I hope I can approach it in a more or less objective manner this evening. What I have to say I do not say in a spirit of narrow partisanship, nor do I claim to speak on behalf of the people of Canada who are of Ukrainian origin.

I have no mandate to speak on their behalf. I speak as a Canadian citizen. I was elected to this parliament as a Canadian citizen and though I might speak with a certain amount of, shall I say, sentimental attachment, I think that it will be readily understood that I speak in much the same way as, let us say, a person of Irish origin would speak of Ireland even though he had never seen that country, or much in the same way a Scot would speak of Scotland even though he had never been to Scotland. I am one of those who has never seen the Ukraine, but I do speak with a certain amount of sentiment as one who has heard a great deal, not only from my own parents but from the people with whom I have associated, about the beauty, history, traditions and culture of that country. At the same time I want to reiterate that tonight I hope to approach this subject in an objective manner and I hope that is the spirit in which what I have to say will be accepted.