

special welcome, it is only because its history so closely resembles that of my own country. Like Canada, Nigeria has evolved, by peaceful constitutional processes, from colonial status to independence without severing the family connection.

We welcome all these new nations; we welcome the contributions which each can make to the United Nations; we look forward to co-operating closely with them in the work of the Organization and the deliberations of this Committee and we acknowledge, with thanks, the enlightened attitude of the former administering states which has helped to make it possible for these new countries to step out with confidence on the road to freedom.

It has been said that Africa can chiefly be benefited by her own children -- an observation with which we can all agree -- but in truth the emancipation of colonial peoples, if it is to take place in harmony and in the most propitious conditions, must be the result of a partnership. At least that is how we in Canada, as a multi-racial society, see it. Our new friends in Africa are here first of all because their own leaders, while never compromising in their demands for independence, had the wisdom to prepare for it carefully, and secondly because the colonial or administering authorities -- almost without exception -- had the wisdom to hand over after careful preparation, at the right time and in the right way.

III

The presence of so many new African states reminds us that independence has become the normal status in Africa; colonies are now the exception. And this leads me to the Report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self Governing Territories which we are now discussing, because that Report singles out as the most significant feature of the period from 1946 to 1957 the sharp reduction in the number of non-self-governing territories and, above all, the fact that approximately one-half of the more than 200 million people concerned were able to demonstrate during that time their capacity to govern themselves. Since 1957, as we know, progress has been even more rapid.