

favourably to aspirations for independence expressed by the population of that territory. At the same time, it is clear that the achievement of independence will be meaningful only if its territorial integrity is completely respected by neighbouring countries.

The question of Western Sahara is an extremely sensitive one, as was demonstrated by the recent Security Council discussion on that subject. We do not believe it appropriate to comment here on the matters that were discussed by the Security Council or on the results of the negotiations between the parties concerned with regard to Article 33 of the Charter. We need only state that, with regard to the decolonization aspects, it is clear that the United Nations General Assembly must maintain its position to the effect that the peoples of every non-self-governing territory have the right to self-determination in accordance with Resolution 1514; the paramount factor in decolonization must remain, as defined by Article 73 of the Charter, the interests of the inhabitants of the territory.

With regard to the question of Belize, the Canadian delegation is pleased similarly to support the right of the people of Belize to self-determination and to stress the need for the early conclusion of negotiations between the Governments of the United Kingdom and Guatemala in order that the people of Belize may enjoy independence in a climate of security and friendship with their neighbours.

Decolonization is a noble cause because it leads to a yet nobler one, which is that of freedom and human dignity.

To have favoured and aided this process, and to have contributed in preparing for the future, will undoubtedly be one of this institution's chief claims to honour. We are drawing close to the goal. This should be a further reason for us to renew our efforts, so that, in one more field of international relations, the cause of justice and human dignity may triumph.