



Statement by Professor R. St. John Macdonald
to the Third Committee, November 17, 1965

The Canadian delegation regards the draft convention before us as a document of great importance to the world community and to the United Nations in particular. This draft is part and parcel of the tremendous collective effort which the United Nations has been making, slowly but successfully, to clarify and to formulate principles and procedures which will promote and extend basic individual liberties to more people, in more areas, and on a more comprehensive scale, than ever before. In our view, this document has the capacity to take its place as one of the significant responses by the United Nations to the demands for freedom and for equality which can be discerned with rising insistence the world over, by all who have ears to hear and eyes to see.

We are in complete agreement, therefore, with the many, many delegations which have stressed the importance of making the draft effective, and of preventing it from lapsing into a sort of dead letter for want of adequate implementation provisions. Like others, we too do not want the Cheshire cat without the Cheshire smile. We have been particularly impressed by the eloquent plea which the distinguished representative of Ghana made in this House yesterday, and in which he asked us to exploit the present opportunity to go forward in the struggle against racial discrimination.

Through you, Mr. Chairman, I would say now to our good friend from Ghana that the Canadian delegation is ready to join with him in matching deeds to words, and in going forward with