

Canada supports admission of Vietnam to the United Nations

Canada has announced its support of the resolution offering membership in the United Nations General Assembly to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. In his address to the Security Council, Paul A. Lapointe, Chargé d'Affaires, Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN, stated that:

"Vietnam's membership in the United Nations is not only desirable in itself but would also serve to demonstrate the organization's commitment to universal membership as the best guarantee of international understanding...."

"Canada's support for Vietnamese membership in the United Nations, and in other international organizations, thus reflects a continuation of our earlier activities in Vietnam. It also reflects our interest in the promotion of peace, stability and economic development throughout Southeast Asia. Canada is, of course, a Pacific as well as an Atlantic country and is very much concerned with peace and stability in the Pacific and has long worked to achieve greater co-operation among nations of the Pacific area.

"Canada's relations with Vietnam

are, Mr. President, established on a firm footing. A Canadian ambassador was accredited to Hanoi prior to the inception of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and last year Hoang Luong, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, visited Canada. Shortly thereafter a resident Vietnamese embassy was installed in Ottawa. Only last Friday, on July 15, we were happy to receive Vietnam's first resident Ambassador to Canada, Tran Tuan Anh. We have extended in the past and will continue to extend humanitarian assistance to Vietnam in recognition of their post-war needs. Through the United Nations system, we have contributed in recent years to projects being implemented in Vietnam under the auspices of UNICEF, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Program. We are also discussing other forms of economic co-operation in line with the interests of both countries. We look forward to continuing in the forum of the United Nations our 'dialogue' with Vietnam on issues of peace and prosperity in Asia and in the world at large...."

are the salient etiological variables that determine the occurrence of a sexual offence. The present results "disconfirm" the theory that any conscious or unconscious motivation on the part of the female victim may have contributed to the offence.

During the 1974 Toronto Transit strike the number of sexual offences against female hitch-hikers increased nine times, while the total number of sexual offences against females remained constant. It would appear that there is a relatively constant number of males in Metropolitan Toronto who commit sexual offences against adult females. An increase in the opportunity to commit a sexual offence, such as occurred during the TTC strike, when numerous females hitch-hiked, affects only the particular method by which a sex offender contacts his victim, and does not alter the total number of sexual offences. During the TTC strike many females used hitch-hiking as a means of transportation and the sex offender used this method to contact his victim instead of other means.

During the TTC strike, the proportion of sexual offences against female hitch-hikers increased by eight times as compared to the pre-strike and post-strike periods in 1974. Seasonal factors were unable to account for this increase, since it was found that during the three periods studied in 1973 the proportion of sexual offences against hitch-hikers remained constant. This suggests that the TTC strike and resulting increase in the number of hitch-hiking females was directly related to the increase in the number of sexual offences against hitch-hikers. It was hypothesized that if the female had either deliberately or unconsciously invited the sexual offence, then the total number of sexual offences would increase during the TTC strike. No support was found for the theory that sexual offences are generally victim-precipitated since the total number of offences was unaffected by the strike....

Preventative measures

Based on the findings of this study and other research reports, five preventative measures designed to reduce the incidence of female sexual assault were proposed:

...Females should be advised not to hitch-hike or engage in other activities

The sexually-assaulted female: innocent victim or temptress?

An article in the March 1977 issue of Canada's Mental Health by Dr. Sheldon W. Geller, a clinical psychologist, refutes the theory that sexual offences against females are provoked by the victim.

Dr. Geller, who works for the Employee Health Service of the Ontario government, as well as operating a private practice and teaching at Toronto's Seneca College, discusses his research as follows:

During the latter part of the summer of 1974, the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) employees were on a 23-day strike, resulting in a total shutdown of bus, street car and subway service for the 2,628,043 inhabitants of Metropolitan Toronto.

The public transit strike provided a novel and unique opportunity to systematically evaluate the validity of sexual assault theories by determining if the frequency and nature of sexual assault against females was affected by the TTC strike, which resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of female hitch-hikers within Metropolitan Toronto.

Within a distance of only a few

blocks, it was not uncommon for a driver during the strike period to observe as many as 20 women hitch-hiking. One Toronto newspaper mounted a campaign to encourage drivers to offer rides to hitch-hikers. During the strike period there was a degree of respectability accorded to the practice of hitch-hiking....

Victim not responsible

The results of the present study provide the first empirical demonstration that the female victim is not responsible for the sexual offence committed against her. It appears that both the opportunity to commit a sexual offence and the availability of a female victim