

Moreover, in modern times, we have witnessed a second surge of Russian imperialism. Free countries, established by virtue of the right of self-determination which was promoted at the end of the First World War, have been swallowed up by the Communist empire.

But this is not merely a matter of history, obscured by the passing of time. It is an essential part of the problem which we are discussing today and which we have discussed in this Assembly on many earlier occasions and under various items. It is the problem of the universal application of rights and freedoms proclaimed under the general authority of our Charter.

In the pursuit of these great Charter principles and purposes, this organization has been instrumental in bringing freedom and independence to many nations. The record since 1939 shows that 44 nations, with a total population of over 840 million people, have attained independence. Their distinguished representatives today play an important part in our deliberations.

But what about the position of subject peoples within the Soviet empire? Assessments may vary but there are about 96 million people under Soviet rule who have never been permitted to exercise the right of self-determination which the U.S.S.R. so loudly proclaims for others. It is a unique and disturbing phenomenon at this time in world affairs, when one of the highest aspirations of mankind is the peaceful and orderly evolution to viable freedom for all dependent peoples, that the U.S.S.R. should continue to deny the rights of free election and expression to subject nations under its domination.

It is all the more disturbing because the actual developments within the Soviet empire are so completely out of tune with the protestations of Soviet propaganda. Directly following Soviet revolution, much was made of Communist belief in the right of self-determination. During the early twenties, independent states did spring into being in the land mass now dominated by Russian Communists. The nationhood of separate peoples in that broad area was, however, quickly extinguished as soon as the Communist party leaders in Moscow realized that those states were intent