

While we may deplore much of what has happened in Algeria during recent years, we hope sincerely that good will and reason will prevail and that the two sides in Algeria will work out a solution peacefully, and without interference.

For my Delegation, it is highly questionable that this process can be spurred on in the right direction by discussions in the United Nations, or by the adoption of resolutions unacceptable to the party principally concerned. I think it is also clear that foreign intervention is not leading in the direction of a reasonable and bloodless solution of the problem.

We in Canada have had some experience both of the great contributions which France has made and will continue to make to the civilization of the world, and of the problems of working out a harmonious political and social entity in a society composed of races of differing cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds, as the distinguished Foreign Minister of France mentioned. We have succeeded in Canada, though I can assure the members of this committee it was not accomplished overnight. It took generations of patient work, on the part of both communities, and I would like to suggest to this committee that a happy equilibrium cannot be evolved in Algeria, in an infinitely more involved and difficult situation, without the exercise of infinite restraint and political wisdom.

My Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, in speaking on the problem of unity in Canada, only last Saturday, stressed the need not to minimize the cultural and economic factors tending towards co-operation between the two ethnic groups, nor at the same time to exaggerate their differences. I have the impression, in listening to some of our friends in the present debate, that they would try to do precisely the contrary with regard to Algeria and I would like to make a plea in this committee for a balanced approach to the problem.

I was impressed, as I am sure all of us were, by the dispassionate expose of the contribution of France to the evolution of Algeria. We knew this in the abstract, but the repetition of it here helps to bring home the need to proceed with caution in order not to undermine this contribution, a contribution, I might add, which extends to Africa south of the Sahara as well. And, in this connection, I should like to draw the attention of the Committee to the plea recently made by that great humanitarian, Albert Schweitzer, who can certainly not be accused of partisan politics, and whose work in Africa needs no underlining, to avoid exacerbating further a difficult situation.

We must also keep firmly in mind the immense progress made by France in the last year and a half in its relations with countries in which it formerly exercised full control. Morocco and Tunisia are now completely independent countries