

The Special Committee recognizes, in Paragraph 151 of its report, "that it has by no means completed the task entrusted to it by the General Assembly and that there are many more territories concerning which the implementation of the Declaration remains to be considered". This conclusion is fully sustained by actual situations which exist in many parts of the world but which are not confined to any one geographic area. Understandably, in recent years there has been emphasis on Asia and Africa because, in those continents, the stirring march to nationhood has surged forward at a quickening pace. It is the very fact of great progress in these areas which has stimulated and concentrated international interest in developments there.

Universal Application

But this Assembly has recognized and the Special Committee of Seventeen must be aware that, like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and like the Charter of this organization, the Declaration on Colonialism was intended to be universal in its application. The appropriate Assembly resolutions on this subject offer no exemption and admit of no exceptions. The rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration extend to subject peoples everywhere.

This, in the Canadian view, should be the basic approach of the United Nations to the implementation of all declarations and resolutions of the General Assembly dealing with fundamental rights and freedoms. It is their universal application without distinction that we should keep in mind. And, having regard to its established methods and priorities, the Assembly should act to ensure that degree of application.

In our approach to colonialism, all of us here should recall that the historic factors which contributed to the establishment of Belgian, British, Dutch, French and German imperial systems in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries led, at the same time, to the establishment of a Russian empire under which long-established cultures and whole nations were subjected to foreign domination. In the course of that development, colonialism spread from Europe, not only across the oceans but also over wide stretches of land.

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