

The Resolution tabled in Document L/991 Rev. 1, by 12 co-sponsors, including Canada, is more specifically directed towards commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the Declaration. From the point of view of my Delegation, the best way in which to mark that important anniversary is to do so in simple, straightforward terms that will impress upon the world the sense of dedication that all members of the United Nations should feel on such an occasion. We do not think that it would add either to the dignity or to the persuasiveness of such a re-affirmation of high purpose if we were to encumber it with extraneous matters and to imbed it in extravagant language. Accordingly, it was our hope that the twelve-power text, as a straightforward attempt to draw attention to the 15th anniversary of the Declaration and to set the stage for its proper commemoration would be accepted without substantial change by this Committee. The U.S.S.R. amendments in Document L/993 seem to my Delegation to go beyond the essential purpose of commemoration and to some extent beyond our concern to express our convictions with the power of simplicity. However, as the Committee has been informed, the co-sponsors of L/991, Rev.1, including Canada, are prepared to accept the revised form of the sub-amendments which my own and other delegations have tabled in L/1000.

Turning to the second aspect of the issue before us, namely, what impetus to give the future programme of activities in the field of human rights, my Government feels strongly that the touchstone of our efforts must be our co-operative determination to see those rights enjoyed universally. I emphasize the important words "enjoyed universally". This is a task of high purpose and of potential significance to the lives and welfare of millions of people all over the globe.

Here again the loftiness of the endeavour should compel us to choose our words carefully so as to keep in this great work the tone of measured dignity and conviction of purpose that it deserves. Our objective must be to demonstrate to the world at large that the United Nations' interest in human rights is solemn, mature and sincere.