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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

HUMAN RIGHTS: CANADA'S POSITION: On October 4, the Ad Hoc Political Committee began consideration of the question of the observance in Bulgaria, Hungary, and Roumania of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Bolivia, Canada, and the United States jointly submitted a draft resolution which, in part, called on the General Assembly to affirm its continuing interest in this matter, and to submit to the International Court of Justice, for an advisory opinion, certain legal questions regarding the functioning of the machinery provided in the peace treaties for the settlement of differences.

In speaking on the resolution, the Canadian Delegate Mr. Paul Martin, Minister of National Health and Welfare, said: "In our judgment, ample evidence is available to indicate beyond any doubt that these states have misused their power in order to deprive or curtail the individuals under their jurisdiction of their inherent natural rights to their own beliefs The real question which the Committee is called upon to decide is the procedure that should be followed in order to clearly establish that the activities of these governments constitute in fact a breach of the obligations assumed by them under the peace treaties."

Mr. Martin concluded by saying that "this problem should... be decided by the highest international judicial body, ... the International Court of Justice," and that for this reason the Canadian Delegation supported the resolution before the Committee.

PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES CCL: The Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, spoke to some 800 delegates to the annual convention of the Canadian Congress of Labour at their dinner on October 4. Excerpts from the Canadian Press report of his speech follow:

"Currency devaluation should bring long-run price reductions in Canada, the Prime Minister said, ... at the same time warning his union hearers bluntly not to push wages so high that Canadian goods would be priced out of world markets. ... Labour should produce more if it wants a higher standard of living. ... If productivity could be achieved only by a partnership between labour, management and the community, then 'I think it will be the part of wisdom for us to bring that about'"

"Some social security must be organized by the state, Mr. St. Laurent said, and he was free to admit that Canada still had 'some way to go'. However, the extent of that depended on production, which was the real wealth of the community."

MR. BEVIN'S VISIT: The Right Honourable Ernest Bevin, P.C., M.P., Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom, arrived in Ottawa on October 2 for a three day visit. In the course of his stay, Mr. Bevin spoke informally to an enthusiastic body of delegates to the Canadian Congress of Labour Convention, then in session, and to the Ottawa Canadian Club. A partial text of the latter speech will be printed in the Canadian Weekly Bulletin for October 14.