

STRIVINGS FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

While our main attention is usually given to the fundamental division between East and West, two other problems have been occupying the thoughts of those at the United Nations to an increasing extent. These are the relationships between developed and under-developed countries, and between anti-colonial countries and those administering dependent territories. Canada, as a nation which has achieved a high level of prosperity within a framework of full self-government and national sovereignty, cannot be indifferent to the aspirations of those seeking either economic development of their territories or the achievement of self-government.

Modern history has witnessed the emergence of a whole new list of independent states--Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Burma, India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Israel, Indonesia and Libya. The United Nations has played its part in creating conditions that have enabled certain of these to proceed along the road towards self-government. Canada, of course, has a special appreciation of the national ambitions that motivate dependent peoples in other areas not yet self-governing. However, while we are in sympathy with these natural aspirations, we are aware also of the danger of premature action. The legitimate aspirations of dependent peoples must be balanced against the desirability and the necessity of recognizing the domestic jurisdiction of the parent states. Thus, one of the most vital services the United Nations can perform in this age of transition is to help direct the explosive forces of nationalism into orderly and non-violent channels.

FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS AND HUMAN RIGHTS:

Many problems arise in the United Nations in which little direct action is possible, but in which the United Nations can serve as the conscience of the world. One such issue has been raised at recent sessions by the Arab-Asian countries who assert that race conflict in South Africa resulting from the Union Government's policy of apartheid is creating a situation which threatens the peace and violates human rights.

Another question in this category has been the issue, first raised in 1949, of the observance of fundamental freedoms and human rights in Bulgaria, Hungary and Roumania. The General Assembly has since passed resolutions condemning the three governments for refusal to fulfil their obligations. At the Eighth Session of the Assembly, the Canadian Delegation questioned the sincerity of the Soviet Government in putting forward a resolution calling for measures to reduce international tensions when, at the same time, it not only permitted but organized religious persecution within its own borders. Mention was also made of the situation in Poland where religious persecution has recently been renewed. It was pointed out that similar instances could be given affecting various branches of Christianity and other faiths. The Canadian position on this question remains as it was described at the Seventh Session of the Assembly:

".....It is now with the greatest regret that we realize that the good faith and the goodwill of those governments responsible for these