

Nations. Have the Governments of the U.S.S.R. and its allies forgotten that less than two years ago this Assembly, by a vote of 109 to none, declared:

"No state has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly for any reason whatever, in the internal or external affairs of any other states. Consequently, armed intervention and all other forms of interference or attempted threats against the personality of the state or against its political, economic and cultural elements, are condemned."

Although we are bound to take note of the wishes of the Government of Czechoslovakia that the Security Council refrain from further action at this time, the Council quite rightly remains seized of this question, which has profound implications for the independence and sovereignty of all member states. The concern of members of the United Nations for Czechoslovakia, its leaders and its people will inevitably continue until the soil of that country is once again free of foreign troops.

We must also be aware of the danger to peace in Europe arising from recent charges levelled by the Soviet Union against the Federal German Republic and the evocation of an alleged unilateral right of intervention in yet another country. In the view of Canada, no such right exists.

While condemning the Soviet Union and its allies for what they have done, we must be ready to seize every opportunity for serious and constructive discussion of the issues that divide East and West. So long as Soviet troops remain on Czechoslovakian territory the progress of such discussions will of necessity be slow and cautious. But there is one area in which we must press on: negotiations to end the arms race should be pursued vigorously. Progress on this front will benefit all nations, including Czechoslovakia....

NIGERIA

...The Canadian delegation acknowledges and fully understands the request of the Organization of African Unity that governments abstain from any action which might impair the unity, territorial integrity and peace of Nigeria. We are also aware and appreciative of the efforts made by the Government of Nigeria and many other governments to deal with the humanitarian issues. We trust that such efforts will expand in keeping with the requirements of the situation. In the face of the human tragedy which has unfolded before our eyes, it is only natural that people everywhere should feel deep sympathy for the Nigerian people and be anxious that no international effort be spared to come to the help of those in need.

Because of our sympathy and concern for the Nigerian people, the Canadian Government is providing *Hercules* aircraft with crews and has allocated over \$1 million for relief supplies for Nigeria through the International Red Cross, whose invaluable service on this occasion, despite the difficulties arising from civil war, has given us grounds for admiration. In addition, Canadian voluntary agencies have made substantial contributions. My Government also agreed, at the request of the Government of Nigeria, to

participate in the international team which has been observing the situation in the territories of the Eastern Region where Federal Government authority has been restored and whose continuing reports will give an impartial account of what is happening. The reports should be as full and detailed as possible in order to serve their intended purpose.

We do not yet know the full dimensions of the problems of immediate relief which may be required, still less the extent of reconstruction which will face the people of Nigeria when peace, we hope, is mercifully and quickly restored. We do know that these problems will call for international co-operation and assistance on a substantial scale. Canada stands ready to play a full part....

VIETNAM

It is deeply discouraging that no tangible progress has been made towards a negotiated settlement in Vietnam. The high hopes universally aroused by the initiation of the talks in Paris reflected the overwhelming desire of mankind to see this agonizing and destructive conflict brought to an end.

While it is appropriate that this body should be concerned with the situation in Vietnam, responsibility rests in the final analysis with the two sides to the conflict. Canada has already expressed the view that the bombing of North Vietnam should stop. This is an essential first step. But a political settlement requires a general military de-escalation, and North Vietnam must demonstrate its willingness to contribute to this process.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

We are often reminded that the United Nations is a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations. One of the main threats to such harmony is racial discrimination and the effects it has on international stability. The divisions amongst the membership which these questions provoke must not be allowed to lead to a breakdown in communication between us. The object is clear: it is to ensure that the majority of the peoples of the countries of Southern Africa will no longer be deprived of their rightful place in the political, economic and social development of their countries.

The main issues are the future of South West Africa and Rhodesia, the question of *apartheid* in South Africa, and the refusal of the Government of Portugal to accept the overwhelming opinion of this Assembly in favour of self-determination for the peoples of Angola, Mozambique and Portuguese Guinea. In all four situations, minority groups have decided that they alone have the right to determine for an indefinite period the rate of progress and the capacity to govern of the unenfranchised majority. These inequities must be ended. The process of peaceful change must be accelerated.

But how? We are all looking for some way out of the present impasse over South West Africa. At the twenty-second session of the Assembly, the Canadian representative suggested that the Assembly explore the offer made by the Foreign Minister of South Africa