



# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

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## WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

**MR. LAPOINTE ON RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION:** On April 20 the ad hoc Political Committee of the United Nations continued its discussion of the item, "having regard to the provision of the Charter and of the peace treaties, the question of observance in Bulgaria and Hungary of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including question of religious and civil liberties, with special reference to recent trials of church leaders".

Two proposals were before the Committee on this question: the first, submitted by Cuba, proposes the establishment of a 15-member Committee to investigate the whole matter, the UN Press Bureau reported.

The second proposal, submitted by Bolivia, would have the General Assembly express its "deep concern" at the accusations made against the Governments of Bulgaria and Hungary regarding the suppression of human rights and fundamental freedoms in these countries.

Under the terms of this resolution the General Assembly would "note with satisfaction that measures have been taken by several states, signatories to the peace treaties with Bulgaria and Hungary, regarding the accusations" and would express the hope that these measures will be diligently applied in accordance with the treaties, in order to obtain a settlement which will "ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms."

Furthermore, according to the Bolivian proposal, the General Assembly would "most urgently" draw the attention to the Governments of Bulgaria and Hungary to their obligations under the peace treaties, including the obligation to co-operate in the settlement of all these questions.

Finally, the resolution would have the General Assembly decide "to retain the question on the agenda of the 4th session of the United Nations General Assembly."

Hugues Lapointe (Canada) declared that the UN Charter placed upon member states an obligation, as one of the prime purposes of the Organization, to develop friendly relations amongst nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights. That was why, he said, the Charter in various places refers to the rights and freedoms of the individual in society.

History, he continued, was full of examples of severe unrest and instability resulting from the activities of repressive governments which sought to take freedom from their citizens. If there were signs in the world again today, he said, that men were systematically being deprived of liberties which were recognized as essential in a stable and progressive society, the United Nations must concern itself with that situation and must seek whatever remedy is possible.