

Since the last General Assembly, Canadian interest in the question of human rights has been stimulated more than ever by the "Act for the Recognition and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms" passed by the Canadian Parliament at its last session. This piece of legislation, sponsored by the Prime Minister, establishes a Bill of Rights for Canada wherein it is:

"recognized and declared that in Canada there have always existed and shall continue to exist the following human rights and fundamental freedoms, namely,

- (a) the right of the individual to life, liberty, security of the person and enjoyment of property, and the right not to be deprived thereof except by due process of law;
- (b) the right of the individual to protection of the law without discrimination by reason of race, national origin, colour, religion or sex;
- (c) freedom of religion;
- (d) freedom of speech
- (e) freedom of assembly and association; and
- (f) freedom of the press."

As a result of legislative action, and the success of large-scale adult education programmes in Canada, public opinion in my country at the present time is particularly favourable to the promotion of human rights and inter-ethnic, inter-religious and inter-racial harmony. The continuing education programme by such agencies as the National Film Board and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as well as the Federal Department of Labour and the Citizenship Branch reinforces a growing body of anti-discrimination legislation and aims to encourage harmony among the various groups forming the Canadian nation. In addition, Canadian voluntary organizations play an active part, through education, in preventing religious and racial discrimination and in promoting understanding of human rights. They accomplish this by publications, organizational and public meetings, panel discussions on television and radio, seminars and conferences. It is against this background that we shall be approaching the discussion of the draft resolution on "Manifestations of Racial and National Hatred" put forward by the distinguished delegate of Czechoslovakia.

Later when we come to discuss Article 18 of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Committee will have occasion to have a closer look at Document E.CCN.4/Sub-2/200, the "Study of Discrimination in the Matter of Religious Rights and Practices", which is an important contribution to the study of human rights. This is a document which has already attracted some attention in my country where out of a large population of some 400,000 Canadians of Ukrainian origin 191,000 are members of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. These latter have been deeply troubled by the forced merger in the Ukraine of the Ukrainian Catholic Church with the Russian Orthodox Church in 1946 after four centuries of separate existence.