

Most members of the United Nations in speaking passionately and working indefatigably to safeguard the right to enjoy such freedoms as these, do so on behalf of persons in all parts of the world. There are some members, however, who would exempt their own areas from the writ of United Nations' authority in respect of the application of the Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on colonial independence. One wonders whether the peoples in the Ukraine and throughout the vast territory now embraced in the system of the U.S.S.R. have the very deep satisfaction of knowing that the principles of these inspiring documents were meant to apply to them as to the peoples in other areas of the world. The United Nations must not ignore any area, which, despite the secrecy now shrouding the conditions it harbours, is a persistent source of disturbing suggestions of flagrant denials of human rights.

With this in mind, and having very much in mind also the unsparring criticism which the U.S.S.R. and its closest friends are keen to direct towards conditions in other parts of the world, the Secretary of State for External Affairs for Canada, in his statement in the General Debate in plenary on September 25, contrasted the progress towards independence exemplified by the Commonwealth and the absence of any evidence of such progress in the area under Soviet domination. He stressed in this context that "the principles of human rights and self-determination are clearly intended to be universal in their application,

To recapitulate, Mr. Chairman, the text in L/992 Rev.1 could, we believe, be improved by a greater emphasis on the objective of the universal application of the Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on colonial independence and that its language should stick as closely as possible to that employed in those inspiring documents and the Charter of the United Nations. To achieve these ends the amendments in L/1000 have been tabled and I commend them to the support of this Committee.