

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1962

Statement made in the United Nations General Assembly
on October 22 by Miss Helen Marsh, Canadian Delegate
to the Third (Social, Cultural and Humanitarian)
Committee

Human Rights

In my intervention in the General Debate, I emphasized the importance which my country attaches to the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, which are the objectives of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I need not, therefore, take up the time of my colleagues here in a lengthy description of the way in which by elucidating and fortifying the ancient safeguards of the twin heritage of common and civil law systems, a far-reaching Bill of Rights guarantees to all Canadians the full enjoyment of the rights and freedoms specified in the Declaration. Still, I think that the steady flow of thousands of new arrivals from abroad which continues today, as it has for decades past, to swell our population year by year attests to the fairly widespread belief that Canada is among those fortunate countries where the dignity and the worth of the individual are two essential elements of the economic, social and political organization of national life.

From the outset, therefore, my Delegation has had a very special interest in the question that now engages our attention. As I see it, that question is really in two parts. The first is how best, and most appropriately, to mark the 15th anniversary of the Declaration. The second part of the question before us is what fresh impetus we can now give to the Commission on Human Rights and to the conscience of mankind so as to ensure continuous hard effort in the future to further the purposes of the Declaration.