

The two declarations then contain a long list of the specific rights which should be guaranteed to every single human being. These include personal rights, such as freedom of religion, speech, information and ownership, the right to be protected by the agencies of the state, right to work and to achieve a certain degree of economic, social and cultural well-being, political rights, citizenship and the right of the citizen to participate in the government of the state.

Mrs. Roosevelt can be assured of our deep interest in the activities of her Commission. In the speech from the Throne at the opening of the present parliamentary session, the Canadian government announced that it intends to propose the establishment of a special committee of both Houses to study the question of human rights and fundamental freedoms and report on the best way to ensure the complete fulfilment of the obligations contracted in this respect by all members of the United Nations.

And now, as I have already said, it gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the Canadian Government and people, to welcome Mrs. Roosevelt.

The Prime Minister has asked me to express his regrets that he is unable to be here himself tonight and wishes me to convey to you a personal message of kindest regards.

Mrs. Roosevelt is highly qualified to speak on human rights. At the meetings of the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1946, both in London and New York, her speeches were among the most effective in bringing home to us the problems of the hundreds of thousands of refugees from the viewpoint of their essential rights as human beings. As the chairman of the Commission on Human Rights of the United Nations, her voice is today, in that respect, the voice of the conscience of the world.

That Mrs. Roosevelt was chosen unanimously to be chairman of this Committee was not the result of mere chance. Throughout her career she has been known and beloved for her constant devotion to the interests of ordinary people and especially those whose rights were threatened or abused. She has travelled across the United States and in many other lands and everywhere has talked with persons in every walk of life. Whenever she is not travelling herself, people travel to see her. She is sought after for her wisdom, her understanding and the compassion which fills her heart. That is why, whenever she speaks at the meetings of the General Assembly of the United Nations her voice carries double weight: she is listened to, both as a spokesman of her own Government and as a great citizen of the world.

I have the honour to introduce to you Mrs. Roosevelt.