

I think it is important in order to understand the extent of the responsibility which weighs on these governments, to recall the efforts of the United Nations in the course of the last three years in an attempt to put an end to the suffering of those who have had the misfortune to become victims of these persecutions. Let us recall, first, the proposal submitted in 1949 in the course of the second part of the third session of the General Assembly by Bolivia and Australia, the title of which read as follows:

"Having regard to the provisions of the Charter and of the peace treaties, the question of the observance in Bulgaria and Hungary of human rights and fundamental freedoms including questions of religious and civil liberties with specific reference to recent trials of church leaders".

The Ad Hoc Committee on this occasion studied many draft resolutions which might have provided a solution to these problems of persecutions if only good faith had existed on the part of the Governments of Hungary, Roumania and Bulgaria. It was soon discovered, unfortunately, that this good faith was lacking and the General Assembly had to limit itself to a resolution which expressed the hope that measures would be applied in accordance with the peace treaties which might tend to rectify the situation which everyone deplored. In his declaration in support of the item tabled by Bolivia and Australia, the Canadian representative made a specific reference to the trial of Cardinal Mindszenty, to the persecution suffered by the Calvinist Church in Hungary and to the discriminatory measures taken against fifteen Protestant pastors in Bulgaria. The Canadian representative did not hesitate to explain further that, in the opinion of the Canadian Government, these persecutions were the natural out-growth of Communism.

This same question was considered at the fourth session of the General Assembly in the fall of 1949, when the Assembly's attention was drawn to a similar situation existing in Roumania. The Governments of Bulgaria, Hungary and Roumania had rejected completely the charges made by the Allied Governments that they had violated the Peace Treaties. It was, therefore, necessary to appeal to the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion on a number of specific questions which arose jointly from the articles of the peace treaties and from the refusal by the countries mentioned to answer to the accusations made against them.

The opinion handed down by the International Court of Justice left no doubt that an international dispute had arisen within the meaning of the peace treaties and that the Governments of Bulgaria, Hungary and Roumania were legally bound to appoint representatives to the Commission provided for by the treaties. We all know that the Governments of Bulgaria, Hungary and Roumania ignored completely the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice.

The Ad Hoc Political Committee again discussed the question at the Fifth Assembly at New York in 1950. Unfortunately, it had become evident by that time that, without the voluntary co-operation of the governments