

peal 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 concerned, little progress could be expected in the efforts of the United Nations to put an end to the crying injustices which prevailed in those countries.

The last resolution of the General Assembly on this question was adopted at its fifth session. In more ways than one, this resolution was — and we have to recognize it — one of resignation and despair. At the same time, it left no doubt as to the feelings of world public opinion towards those governments which refused to recognize the principle of respect for human rights and which challenged in the most flagrant manner the authority of the United Nations and of the International Court of Justice.

Bad to Worse

This history of discriminatory measures and of persecutions which I have just outlined, I regret to say has gone from bad to worse since the last resolution was adopted by the General Assembly. It is now with the greatest regret that we realize that the good faith and the goodwill of those governments responsible for these persecutions have not shown any improvement. On the contrary, if there has been any change, I would say that it has been towards a greater absence of goodwill and of good faith. In the light of these considerations, my delegation is painfully aware of the futility at this moment of placing before the General Assembly any draft resolution or of inviting the United Nations or the Secretary-General to take specific action on the problem.

But the Canadian Delegation, nevertheless, desires to protest formally and with all its energy, before this Committee and before the United Nations, against the systematic persecutions which rage practically everywhere behind the Iron Curtain and which are disposing in the most horrible manner of millions of human beings whose only crime has been their desire to be free.

Like my own, a number of governments of the free world will no doubt wish, at this session, to raise their voices in protest against the deplorable, if not incomprehensible, actions of these governments and they will be able to cite much evidence in support of their allegations. I would not wish, therefore, to delay this Committee unduly by a detailed recital of everything that has taken place behind the Iron Curtain in violation of human rights since 1950.

Many delegates around this table have probably read the documentation recently submitted by the United Kingdom on the human rights violations in Bulgaria, Hungary and Roumania. Many among you, no doubt, have also had the opportunity of studying the well-documented reports periodically published by such organizations as the National Committee for a Free Europe. The reading of these various reports is frightening, inasmuch as the picture they give is one of brutality and inconceivable cruelty.

Trial in Bulgaria

I should like, however, to say a few words about a trial which took place very recently in Bulgaria, the story of which will confirm the fact that the wave of terror which we deplored in 1949 is still persisting in those unfortunate countries, more implacable than ever. It is true that there will be little that is new or unexpected in the description which I am about to give you, since the trial followed a pattern which is unfortunately too well known. It followed the pattern designed to terrorize satellite regimes, to punish them for their shortcomings, to compel greater sacrifices under the shadow of fear, to produce scapegoats and to provide an opportunity for the Soviet Union's favourite propaganda of hatred against states, organizations and individuals of the free world.

The particular trial of which I am about to speak took place this year from September 29 to October 3 and forty persons were brought before the tribunal. Among the six principal defendants were Dr. Evgen Bossilkov, Bishop of Nikopol and Senior Bishop of the Church in Bulgaria, and several leading educators. These six principal defendants were charged with having created an organization for the purpose of overthrowing the Bulgarian Government by means of a *coup d'état* and with the help of foreign intervention. The other defendants were accused of having aided their efforts in varying degree. All defendants, without exception, were found guilty. Four were sentenced to death; two, to twenty years' imprisonment.

These, in brief, are the facts of the case. Fortunately, in spite of the tight censorship which surrounds Bulgaria, there is available further evidence as to the way in which the trial was conducted which enables us to judge for ourselves how little the trials resemble the proceedings of a civilized court conducting an impartial enquiry.