

My government finds it difficult to believe that the Soviet Government, and those associated with it, wish to reduce international tension when at the same time they permit, indeed engineer, religious persecution within their own borders; these actions contradict their professed intentions. This is particularly the case in Poland where religious persecution has recently been renewed. Such things as the trial of Bishop Kaczmarek, three priests and a nun for crimes alleged to have been committed before 1947, followed the arrest of Cardinal Wyszynski and the removal of his churchly offices without any charge being laid against him, offends one's sense of justice. They have aroused great indignation in my own country, and certainly do not make for easing of international tension.

I speak of these things ... not in order to provoke an acrimonious debate, but because I feel, as I said, that Soviet leaders do not and cannot appreciate how other peoples feel and judge their behaviour in this matter of religious persecution. It is not something that affects only one church or faith. I have mentioned only one example, but similar instances could unfortunately be given affecting every main branch of Christendom, and indeed the other principal faiths as well. Perhaps one function of this Assembly, which remains at present the only forum in the world where it seems each side can talk to the other, should be to provide an opportunity to both sides to make it clear to the other what, in its opinion, increases international tension. It is in that spirit that I have felt constrained to raise this subject, for I am sure Soviet leaders have little conception how others in our inter-dependent world react to their brutal persecution of those who try to live their lives in the service of something higher than the state.

---

NOTE - The following is the draft resolution on which the U.S.S.R. based its request for inclusion in the agenda of the eighth session an item on measures to avert the threat of a new world war and to reduce tension in international relations (Doc. A/2485/Rev.1). This was rejected in a paragraph-by-paragraph vote. No vote was taken on the resolution as a whole. After protracted discussion, the First Committee on November 26, 1953 rejected the Soviet resolution in paragraph-by-paragraph voting. Only the first paragraph of the preamble was carried, the vote being 17 in favour (including the Soviet bloc, India, Yugoslavia, Peru, Egypt, Syria and Yemen), none against and 30 abstentions (including Canada). All of the countries which had contributed forces to the United Nations side in the Korean conflict abstained on this vote. As the operative part of the resolution was subsequently defeated, however, the first paragraph of the preamble automatically failed and no voting was required on the resolution as a whole. The second paragraph of the preamble failed by a vote of 7 in favour, 26 against (including Canada) and 18 abstentions.