



STATEMENT No. 65.

Statement in Exercise of Right of Reply by the Cdn. Rep.
in Third Cttee -- on the subject of Religious Intolerance
-- Mrs. Sally Merchant - Nov. 2, 1967

I have asked for the floor, Madam Chairman, in reply to remarks just made by the distinguished delegate from the USSR.

I want to disassociate Canada from any insinuation that the delegate from USSR has sought to leave, in this Committee, that those who oppose the amendment are by their opposition indicating approval of colonialism and opposition to the right to self-determination for all people.

Canada's own history is a colonial history and an evolution towards absolute self-determination. We hold the right to self-determination very dear indeed. We would like to repeat what we said yesterday, that our opposition is based on our unalterable refusal to allow the principle of religious freedom to be jeopardized in any way by the introduction into the convention of any other goal or purpose - no matter how worthy we may judge that purpose to be. This is an argument that the distinguished delegate from the USSR has just himself made (and here I quote as precisely as I can without a verbatim report of his words) when he said "in dealing with colonialism and racialism we are dealing with phenomena having absolutely nothing to do with particular forms of religious intolerance."