



CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Press Office
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November 7, 1967

STATUS OF WOMEN

Text of statement made in the General Assembly
by the Canadian Representative, Mrs. Sally
Merchant, on the Draft Declaration on the Eli-
mination of Discrimination Against Women ----
November 7, 1967.

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Statement No. 70

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Statement made in the General Assembly by the
Canadian Representative, Mrs. Sally Merchant.

The Canadian delegation is happy to welcome the adoption by the United Nations of the Convention barring discrimination against women. This action by the United Nations is an important milestone in the long process of upholding the rights of women. Another important quarantor, as far as Canada is concerned, of women's rights as to men is the institution of Parliament which watches over those who control power and protect the rights of all citizens.

It was only yesterday that the House of Commons of Canada marked a milestone in Parliamentary history--the 100th Anniversary of the meeting of the first Canadian Parliament on November 6, 1867. In associating the Canadian delegation with the observance of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Soviet Union, Canadians would wish to pay tribute to those contributions which have emerged from the Soviet Union in the past fifty years to peaceful living for all peoples throughout the world. Our thoughts naturally turn to the great performers of music of the Soviet Union, to their orchestras, to their incomparable ballet, to their theatre and to their poets and writers. These have brought joy and pleasure not only to their own people, but to audiences throughout the world. We also think of the contributions which have emerged from the Soviet Union in the realm of science and technology. These creative achievements merit highest recognition here, for they are important contributions to international co-operation and understanding for which the United Nations was created.

When we Canadians planned the celebration of our One Hundredth Anniversary we chose as the theme of the International Exhibition in Montreal "Man and his World" in order to bring out the essential need to recognize that we are all of one family, all sharing the fruits of creative achievement as well as the pains of human strife. We also recognized that Canada in celebrating our Centenary does so as a member of the international community to whom we owe so much, both for what we have achieved and what we hope for in the future. It is in this spirit that countries like the USSR and Canada, together with many other countries from all over the world, were able to co-operate so successfully at EXPO 67 in a great and inspiring tribute to "Man and his World." As the Prime Minister of Canada said,

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"Canada does not celebrate its good fortune alone, but as a member of the international community, we welcome the people of every land to come and join us in our Anniversary."

Likewise in all the celebrations throughout the land we stressed the arts of peaceful living, music, the theatre, poetry, as well as the adornment of our natural environment through architecture, engineering, technology and science. And so, Mr. President, whether it be in the matter of discrimination against women or observance of important anniversaries, the gauge of human achievement must surely be progress towards creative and peaceful living. This above all must be the message which goes out from the United Nations for it is in accordance with the high aspirations embodied in the Charter.



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