



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 1963.

B.7

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Howard Green, announced today that the United Nations Commission on Human Rights has begun its 19th session in Geneva. For the first time, Canada is participating in the work of the Commission, having been elected for a three-year term which began on January 1, 1963. The Canadian Delegation to the 19th session is composed of the Canadian Representative, Miss Margaret Aitken, the Alternate Representative, Mr. Jean Boucher of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, and advisers from the Department of External Affairs and the Permanent Mission of Canada to the European Office of the United Nations.

At its 19th session, which will be concluded on April 5, the Commission on Human Rights will be dealing with a number of items, including a draft declaration on racial discrimination, two items on religious intolerance, recommendations for commemorating in 1963 the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and a number of others relating to the further promotion of human rights in various particulars. In its work, the Commission is mainly concerned with elaborating the broad principles of human rights and fundamental freedoms enunciated in the Universal Declaration approved by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. As part of this process, the Commission formulates texts for incorporation in appropriate international instruments.

In accordance with its usual procedure, the Commission on Human Rights will report to the Economic and Social Council, which will meet in the summer in Geneva. The Council in turn will report on these human rights matters to the General Assembly, which provides general guidance for the Council and the Commission in this important field of United Nations activity.