

Grass-Roots Campaign Due To Boost Individual Rights

By RON LEBEL
OTTAWA (CP)—A grass-roots campaign will be waged across Canada during the next two years to expand and defend the rights of the individual.

A provisional committee representing various voluntary associations met here to plan the campaign, which will open in April with a national conference in Montreal. Exact dates will be set later.

The committee, set up in September at the suggestion of the federal government, approved a long list of Canadian objectives for 1968, which has been designated International Human

Rights Year by the United Nations.

Chief aim will be the passage of human rights codes in all provinces, with full-time agencies to enforce them.

The campaign also will press for inclusion of the 1961 Canadian Bill of Rights in the constitution, so that it will supersede acts of Parliament.

The bill rarely has been enforced so far because it is just another act of Parliament and most courts have ruled that older acts take precedence.

GIVES OBJECTIVES
Other broad objectives approved Friday:

- Equal rights for all to realize their educational potential, regardless of financial means or other factors.
- Protection of religious, educational and language rights of minorities.
- Full participation of Indians in Canadian society through economic and social development.
- Equality for women in law, employment and other spheres.
- Appointment of an officer of Parliament or ombudsman to investigate and redress bureaucratic injustices against taxpayers.
- Equal rights for immigrants and removal of discrimination from immigration laws and policies.
- A review of the Criminal Code to increase protection of civil rights.
- Improvement of school curricula to remove vestiges of

prejudice and establishment of university centres on human rights.

The provisional committee was congratulated by Immigration Minister Marchand. He said his department is seeking to eliminate discrimination and injustice in immigration.

Human rights were threatened daily as governments and business corporations grew.

He added that serious attacks on human rights will arise in Canada in five or 10 years unless Canadians fight now for their rights.

Earlier, External Affairs Minister Martin issued a statement on the 18th anniversary of the United Nations declaration of human rights, being observed today.

URGED LOOK AT RECORD
The statement urged Canadians to make a critical examination of their record in discrimination involving race,

creed or sex. The objective of human rights year would be to "subject violations to exposure and public attention."

Mr. Martin said the General Assembly is likely to adopt at its current session two detailed covenants to give legal force to the 1948 declaration of human rights.

More than 100 voluntary organizations are expected to take part in the Canadian campaign. The drive will culminate in a second national conference in the fall of 1968.

Provisional chairman is Dr. John Humphrey, a law professor at McGill University and former director of the UN human rights division. The Canadian Citizenship Council is in charge of organization and planning.

BREATHE AT SPEED
The human body breathes in air at 10 m.p.h.

Baby Seal Skinning Was Fixed

OTTAWA (CP)—The government has obtained "signed affidavits" that men who skinned a baby seal alive before a movie camera crew were paid to do so, Fisheries Minister Robichaud said.

But he added in a Commons reply to Howard Johnston (BC—Okanagan-Revelstoke) that it took the government two years to get this evidence and it was too late now to bring any charges.

Mr. Robichaud said the seal-skinning incident was staged and filmed in 1964 three days before the hunting season opened. After the film was re-

41-Ship Fleet Works Off B.C.

VANCOUVER (CP)—A 41-ship Russian fishing fleet is operating off the British Columbia coast, fisheries department officials said here.

They said another group of the vessels is off the coast of the Alaska panhandle.

The fleet was reported to be the same one that was stationed off the coast of Oregon and Washington states for eight months.

W. R. Hourston, area director of the fisheries department, said the Russians were fishing for ocean perch.

Patrol boats were checking to ensure the Russians remained outside Canada's 12-mile ocean limit.

But it was difficult to keep them under constant surveil-

lance because there is "pretty rough weather there."

Mr. Hourston said the Russians were operating in an area about 200 miles northwest of Vancouver in an area between James Island in the Queen Charlotte group and the entrance to Queen Charlotte Sound at the north end of Vancouver Island.

BARBADOS UN MEMBER
UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Barbados was admitted to the United Nations Friday as the 122nd member. The General Assembly voted by acclamation for admission of the former British territory. It acted on the unanimous recommendation of the 15-country Security Council. Prime Minister Errol Walton Barrow of Barbados told the assembly his country will be an exponent, "not of the diplomacy of power, but of the diplomacy of peace and prosperity."

leaved there was widespread criticism of cruel methods in killing the seals.

Because it had taken two years to gather evidence there was no chance of placing charges, Mr. Robichaud said, but the hunting regulations would be revised to protect against a similar occurrence in future.

He did not name the firm or any of the persons involved in the filming.

WILL REMAIN IN HOSPITAL
LONDON (AP)—Queen Mother Elizabeth, 66, is to stay in hospital for treatment after a medical checkup earlier this week, Buckingham Palace announced Friday. No details of her illness were given. The Queen herself is suffering from laryngitis and has been ordered not to speak for several days so she can regain her voice in time to record her annual Christmas message.



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