

# **THE LIFE OF A CANADIAN INTERNATIONALIST: DR. JOHN PETERS HUMPHREY AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

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“It is a great honor to represent Canada here today as we celebrate the 50th anniversary (1995) of the United Nations during this general debate. Canada has always been among the strongest supporters of the UN, in word and in deed. In 1945, Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King was an original signatory of the United Nations Charter. John Humphrey helped write the UN's 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights...Lester Pearson won a Nobel Peace Prize for his contribution to the UN's success in establishing the first peacekeeping operation in 1956. All of these Canadians had a unifying purpose: to promote progress in implementing the UN's Charter, which enshrines the commitment of the people of the United Nations in the advancement of humanity”<sup>1</sup>

“Peace as an ideal has been too often indissolubly bound up with the status quo as a fact.”<sup>2</sup>

## **A Life Fully Celebrated**

In 1995, when John Peters Humphrey was in his 90th year, he retired from his teaching position with the Faculty of Law at McGill University. It was a privilege to meet him again at his retirement party, where he was appropriately acknowledged for his important contribution to international law, and to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in particular.

There were numerous testimonials by those there that evening. Many spoke glowingly of Humphrey's passion and commitment to the principles of justice and human rights, and for his work as an international jurist. There were also those who spoke for the thousands of students who had passed through the portals of where he had taught in a professional career spanning almost seventy years. One of his colleagues at McGill remarked in admiration and awe, “Finally! What an incredible life... after all this time, all these contributions and so many false starts at retiring, he is finally going to retire!”

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<sup>1</sup>The Hon. Andre Ouellet, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Speech before the U.N. General Assembly, October 1995.

<sup>2</sup>Dr. John Peters Humphrey, author of the preliminary draft of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

However, the greatest compliment paid Humphrey, both by his presence there that evening and by the words he showered on the guest of honour, was given by his long-time friend and associate, Ronald St. John Macdonald. Macdonald, a distinguished international jurist in his own right, is a Professor of International Law at both the University of Toronto and Beijing, and of late, judge of the European Court of Human Rights. Borrowing from his 1991 article on Humphrey's life, Macdonald, as the evening's valedictorian, stated that John Peters Humphrey was "undeniably one of the most distinguished international civil servants of our time."<sup>3</sup>

Within a week of that retirement party, John Peters Humphrey, author of the first draft of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was dead. He had seemingly, and finally, come to terms with the enormous contribution he had made both to Canada and the international community, and had now truly retired. He did so in true Canadian fashion: mourned, missed and unsung.

### **The Legacy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, originally signed at the United Nations on 10 December 1948, is one of the most important international initiatives of the 20th century. Its unanimous adoption by the General Assembly was a remarkable achievement, at once transcending the disparate political ideologies of the day, and drawing upon the universal principles inherent in diverse religious and cultural traditions. The Universal Declaration, along with the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, comprise the International Bill of Human Rights.

This document has served humanity well. For nearly fifty years it has been a vibrant, moral conscience. It provides norms and standards to which the international community should adhere, whereby the actions of nation-states that trample the rights of their own citizens will be condemned. The Declaration has survived those who have deliberately attempted to undermine it by ignoring its tenets or who have suggested that it is not of sufficient cultural relevance. It has inspired hundreds of international human rights conventions and declarations, from the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Declaration on the Right to Development. It has also enkindled the creation of national human rights legislation and institutions, including the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Canadian Human Rights Commission and similar provincial codes and institutions. This, in no small measure, is because of the foresight and perseverance of a truly distinguished Canadian

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<sup>3</sup>R. St. John Macdonald, *Leadership in Law: John P. Humphrey and the Development of International Law of Human Rights*, Reprint from: (1991) *The Canadian Yearbook of International Law* 29 at 3-92.

Inherent in both our Charter and the Universal Declaration are the values that we as Canadians share and to which we aspire, such as respect for the rule of law and the dignity of the person, fairness and equitable treatment, as well as the tolerance and acceptance of diversity as a fundamental principle of democratic participation. This fact is hardly surprising considering that Canadians were instrumental in the preparation of both documents.

John Peters Humphrey, a lawyer specializing in international law from McGill University and the first director of the UN Human Rights Centre, prepared the first draft of the Universal Declaration. He went on to make substantial, if unsung, contributions to the development of international human rights norms and practices at the United Nations. What follows is but a cursory attempt to gauge the measure of the man and the contribution he has made not only to the development of lasting, international norms and standards of human rights, but also to the enrichment of the essence of what it has meant to be a Canadian in the tradition of public service.

### **The Early Years: From Challenge to Opportunity**

Although usually undaunted by it, John Humphrey was accustomed to tragedy and challenge. Born into an upper middle class family in Hampton, New Brunswick in April of 1905, he lost his father 13 months after his birth. When he was six years of age, his arm was badly burned after a sleeve caught fire. After a number of painful operations and skin-grafts, the arm was finally amputated. The accident caused him to miss much of his public schooling and subjected him to the usual taunting and teasing from children. At age eleven, John was devastated when he lost his forty-two year old mother, with whom he had shared a very close relationship, to cancer. The man he would become had started forming at a very young age.

To suggest that Humphrey did not excel during his early years of schooling is being exceedingly kind. He attended Hampton Consolidated School for a four year period where he was a poor student. He was then enrolled at an Anglican boarding school where his dislike of the institution equaled a generally poor performance. Humphrey followed this rather mediocre scholastic performance with two years at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick, where, as his life-long colleague and close friend, Ronald St. John Macdonald, suggests in reviewing Humphrey's early years;

the two years spent at Mount Allison were wasted academically. He had no good reason for being there, save a compelling desire to leave Rothsay and its discipline, and, at fifteen, he was more interested in college pranks than in studying.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>*Ibid.* at 5.

A chance voyage to Montreal whet Humphrey's appetite for the city and for McGill University where he enrolled in a Bachelor of Commerce program and graduated in 1925. Following his graduation, he worked briefly for the Canadian Pacific Railway in Montreal. Because of a budding interest in politics, Humphrey decided that law would provide an appropriate introduction into the field. Although he wanted to continue at McGill, the university insisted that law applicants have an Arts degree. Persisting in his desire to study law and not being able to circumvent the requirement, Humphrey enrolled at Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto. Because of either the city or the law school, Humphrey's experience in Toronto was of short duration and he returned to Montreal where he obtained employment with a Montreal brokerage firm. A year later, in 1926, Humphrey finally decided to pursue his interest in political science and law and he enrolled at McGill in both programs. In so doing he fulfilled the requirement of obtaining a B.A. as a pre-requisite for the study of law. Humphrey graduated with first class honours and a B.C.L. in 1929, accompanied by numerous prizes and fellowships, one of which permitted him to travel to France. Prior to his departure, he had secured an articling position with a Montreal law firm and had made arrangements for his short sabbatical to France.

### **John Humphrey and International Law**

While traveling in France, Humphrey met and married his first wife Jeanne Godreau, who was a French Canadian. Upon attending courses at the Haute École des Études de Droit Internationale, he began what was to become a life-long interest and commitment to international law. He returned to Montreal, worked for six years in the Montreal law firm where he had articulated, and found himself returning to France for further study in Roman and public law.

Returning to Montreal in 1937, Humphrey began a distinguished career at McGill University that spanned nearly three score years. During his early years at McGill, Humphrey taught an eclectic grouping of law courses – from engineering law to administrative and old Roman law. But his first love, international law, was quickly developing and by 1943 he was becoming increasingly noted for his interest and expertise in the area. Humphrey began to write what was to become a legion of publications in the field of international jurisprudence. He wrote politically, publishing frequently in learned journals on issues ranging from the theoretical foundations of international law, to Canada's potential with the Organization of American States. The latter was a role which he advocated for Canada with typical prescience, fully forty years before our formal membership in the OAS.

Being one of the few Anglophones of the time who conscientiously sought to understand the language, social values and political objectives of the Quebec community, he became a Francophile and Quebecophile and often attempted to bridge the “two solitudes”. In a remarkable public broadcast in 1942 with Emile Vaillancourt

and Hugh MacLennan (later published in an article<sup>5</sup>), Humphrey was truly prescient in identifying the issues which would eventually give rise to the Quiet Revolution of Quebec in the 1960s.

Along with his teaching responsibilities and interest in writing, he also found time to complete a Ph.D and was awarded the degree in 1945. His dissertation focused on the principle of the separation of powers in government.

Also seminal to Humphrey's growing commitment to the concept of the rule of international law were the dialogue and debates he engendered and enjoyed through active memberships in Montreal-based organizations in the 1940s. He was a vigorous member of both the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, and the United Nations Association, serving on the executive of both in the early and mid 1940s. Both organizations served as testing grounds for his increasing commitment to the rule of international law and for his growing convictions. One such conviction was that international institutions with both legitimacy and sanctions were needed to control the war-like tendencies of the powers unto themselves: the nation-states. Most recently echoed by the previous Secretary-General of the United Nations, Boutros Boutros Ghali, and the previous Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Humphrey foresaw the absolute necessity of an international peacekeeping force fully 50 years before it became part of the vocabulary of the political and diplomatic domain. As St. John Macdonald points out:

Humphrey argued that the only real guarantor of peace is an international force under the control of the Security Council. The establishment of this force would have to overcome difficulties of recruitment, funding, raw materials, and issues of authority and control. These difficulties, however, could not be overcome as long as the world was organized in the existing state system for a government limited to collectivities and dependent on them can govern only and so long as all of them or at least a preponderant number of them remain in agreement.<sup>6</sup>

Humphrey's domestic interests were wide-ranging. In addition to his pre-occupation with what was referred to as the "Quebec problem", he was equally outspoken on matters relating to a need for "a distinct Canadian identity" and greater independence from Britain. He was outspoken on the need for an independent role for Canada in World War II. He was also a member of the progressive League for Social Reconstruction and a founding member of the Contemporary Arts Society of Montreal during the war years. And of course, there was always his commitment to internationalism. In an expression of his increasing concern for post-war security,

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<sup>5</sup>The CBC broadcast (29 November 1942) was reproduced in the form of a pamphlet-article: J. Humphrey, H. MacLennan, E. Vaillancourt, *Canadian Unity and Quebec* (Montreal: Canadian Printing and Lithographing, 1942). A.J. Hobbins also produced an excellent history of the broadcast and the context in which it took place.

<sup>6</sup>*Ibid.* at 35.

Humphrey sought to participate in the San Francisco conference which created the United Nations. In his efforts to do so, he offered his services pro bono to the government of Canada, but this offer was ignored. In 1946, just prior to his departure to the United Nations, Humphrey assumed the responsibilities of Acting Dean of the Faculty of Law at McGill.

### **The United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

It was both competence and connections that afforded Humphrey the opportunity of being named the first Director of the United Nations Human Rights Division in New York. Asked to assume the post by a close friend, Henri Laugier, who had become one of the assistant Secretaries-General at the UN, Humphrey accepted the posting with enthusiasm. Finally, there would be an opportunity to fully test his expertise and to permit him to advocate his many ideas about international law and human rights in particular. There began a tenure of twenty years (1946-1966) spanning a period that was, as St. John Macdonald rightly suggests:

of crucial importance in the history of the organization, during which it inaugurated its law-making activities in the field of human rights, beginning with the Universal Declaration of Human rights and ending on the eve of the adoption of the two International Covenants. His involvement in the drafting of these instruments, particularly the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was, and remains, perhaps his most celebrated achievement and certainly a focal point for his intellectual interests and academic writings... . In addition to his direct involvement with these historic events, one of Humphrey's most significant accomplishments during twenty years of service at the United Nations was the role he was able to play in keeping the United Nations Human Rights programme alive when it was under attack, especially in the United Nations Secretariat.<sup>7</sup>

The early years of the Human Rights Division over which Humphrey presided were not easy ones. Despite a trained and affable professional staff, Humphrey found little support for the Division and its potentially contentious mandate among the upper echelons of the UN power structure. It became widely known that the first three Secretaries-General of the United Nations, including the enigmatic Dag Hammarskjöld, were not terribly enamored with the "ideology of human rights" and tended to either ignore or shunt aside initiatives having a human rights focus.

The eventual passing of the Universal Declaration was due to the tenacity of a number of senior political players at the UN and the skill and competence of the divisional secretariat, led by Humphrey, that supported their work. In addition to the administrative and managerial competence Humphrey brought to his position,

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<sup>7</sup>J.P. Humphrey, *Human Rights & the United Nations: A Great Adventure* (Dobbs Ferry: Transnational Publishers, 1984).

Humphrey was able to add an innate, public appreciation of the tact and patience required in international diplomacy. This, along with intelligence and curiosity made him, at the very least, the equal of any member of the Human Rights Commission which presided over his work.

Joining the Division at its inception afforded Humphrey the opportunity of guiding its initial orientation and marshaling the intellectual resources of the Secretariat. This was in support of what, without doubt, would be an initial crowning achievement – the passage of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

### **The Declaration, John Humphrey and René Cassin**

There has been much debate among scholars and human rights activists as to the origins within the UN system, of the Universal Declaration. Some have suggested that the author of the first draft of the Declaration – its intellectual parent so to speak – was René Cassin, renowned European human rights champion and member of the Human Rights Commission representing France. Many Americans have insisted that the honour fell to Eleanor Roosevelt, widow of the late President, and Chair of the Human Rights Commission which inaugurated the work. Still others have insisted that this honour actually falls to John Humphrey who, as head of the Secretariat, was instructed by Eleanor Roosevelt to prepare a first draft for the Commission's consideration.

While constraints of both time and space have not permitted an exhaustive consideration of the existing literature on the matter, it is the conclusion of this author and of a number of international scholars that the preparation of the preliminary draft of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights can ultimately and definitively be traced to John Humphrey. There are compelling reasons for reaching this conclusion, aside from the fact that the first five drafts of the Declaration, together with annotations and corrections by Humphrey, are in the possession of the Faculty of Law at McGill University.

While his contributions to human rights throughout his distinguished career have provided more than sufficient reason for the numerous and distinguished awards and honours granted him (including the Order of Canada and Quebec, the prestigious UN Human Rights Award and 18 honorary doctorates), particular attention must be paid to the role John Humphrey played in the drafting of the Universal Declaration for two significant reasons:

- in a distinguished career studded with success, it was, perhaps, among his most significant contributions to the development of international human rights; and
- other people, and still others on their behalf, have mistakenly appropriated credit for the same accomplishment.

Humphrey would be the first to suggest that the Declaration would, indeed, have its origins in the Magna Carta, as well as all such human rights treatises which followed it. While he drew heavily on both the suggestions and interventions of the human rights actors of the day along with the rich tradition of human rights conventions throughout history, there is little doubt that the text of the Declaration, both in terms of its content and organization, owes its seminal existence to the creative efforts of John Humphrey.

Verification for the claim for Humphrey's authorship relies essentially on the chronology of events following the decision of the Commission of Human Rights to prepare a Declaration on Human Rights for the approval of the General Assembly. It also relies on the contents of the substantial material prepared by Humphrey and his colleagues in the Secretariat in support of the Commission's mandate.

Under the chair of Eleanor Roosevelt, the Commission on Human Rights convened its first session in January of 1947 discussing both the contents of and strategy for preparing an International Bill of Human Rights. Stalemated as much for philosophical reasons as for procedural ones, the officers of the Commission, along with the perennial John Humphrey as head of the Secretariat, met privately on a number of occasions, finally requesting that Humphrey and the Secretariat prepare a preliminary or draft declaration. During further procedural wranglings that followed the original request, Humphrey went to work. Over the course of a six week period he produced a substantive draft of the Declaration. As Humphrey reports in his autobiography:

I turned my attention to preparing a draft of a declaration on Human Rights. The Secretariat. . . was not the best place in which to do the kind of job I had to do. The Director was seldom allowed any freedom from people who wanted to see him or from the telephone. If I were to draft a text of such importance, I needed to be alone and quiet for a few days with a chance to think. I talked to Laugier, who agreed it would be a good idea for me to absent myself from my office for a week and devote my full attention to the Declaration. It was therefore at the Lido Beach Hotel, where Jeanne and I were living at the time, that, with some help from Emile Giraud, I prepared the first draft of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.<sup>8</sup>

Following the expansion of the Drafting Committee of the Commission (which had been forced by those countries beginning to realize the significance of the pending Declaration), Humphrey was provided the additional responsibility of producing a "documented outline", which was essentially an annotated reference.

Both Ronald St. John Macdonald and John Hobbins, eminent Humphrey scholar and literary executor, are unequivocal in their analysis of the chronology of events which followed the new request. As Hobbins points out:

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<sup>8</sup>J.P. Humphrey, *Human Rights & the United Nations: A Great Adventure* (Dobbs Ferry: Transnational Publishers, 1984).



[The] request for an “outline” created a number of difficulties... Humphrey choose to interpret an outline freely and, having already completed a draft international bill, he re-titled the same text “Draft Outline of International Bill of Rights”. As Secretary of the new drafting committee, Humphrey submitted this text, which became known as the Secretariat Outline, at the first meeting on June 9. He also submitted a massive compilation, prepared by the Secretariat staff, entitled Documented Outline. This was 408 pages of supporting documentation arranged as a commentary on the Secretariat Outline, article by article. These two documents appear to have been confused. Cassin must have been talking of the latter [document] when he stated the work of the Secretariat could not stand the course of oral debate, forgetting he was also given the former.<sup>9</sup>

Hobbins goes on to quote Charles Malik of Lebanon, an officer of the Commission by virtue of his role as Rapporteur and a member of the drafting committee:

It was, therefore, the international Secretariat of the United Nations, in particular Dr. John Humphrey of the Division of Human Rights who prepared the first draft documented outline of an International Bill of Human Rights.<sup>10</sup>

Another scholar of international law is just as precise:

During the six-week period between the failure of the working group of three to make any progress and the first meeting of the new Committee (the expanded drafting committee), Humphrey was busy preparing the “Documented Outline” referred to by Cassin as the source material for his “first draft”. What Cassin fails to recall, however, is that during the same period Humphrey also produced another document, known as the “Secretariat Outline”, which comprised a preamble and 48 articles for a draft Declaration. This draft was also placed before the Committee at the same time as the “Documented Outline” so that Cassin must have been aware of its existence at the time his colleagues asked him to prepare the “Avant-projet”... . Humphrey’s handwritten manuscript and five annotated typed drafts have all survived intact and there seems little doubt that his “Secretariat Outline” predates that of Cassin.<sup>11</sup>

The Drafting Committee, probably conscious of the political requirement to provide the draft declaration with the imprimatur of an official national delegate and Commission member rather than an international civil servant, then asked René Cassin for his advice. His task was to review the materials and determine which articles would survive and be folded into a formal Declaration. With the assistance of one of Humphrey’s staff, Cassin completed his work in a single weekend, suggesting that his draft, being a derivative, was essentially one of refinement, not invention.

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<sup>9</sup>A.J. Hobbins, “Rene Cassin and the Daughter of Time: the First Draft of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights” (1989) *Fortanus* II 10.

<sup>10</sup>*Ibid.*, at 12.

<sup>11</sup>A. Evans, “Human Rights: A Reply to Geoffrey Best”, (1991) 17 *Review of International Studies* 89.

In later years, distant from the requirements of the discretion demanded of his post, Humphrey would suggest that "Cassin's draft reproduced the Secretariat draft in most of its essentials and style".<sup>12</sup> From a political and diplomatic perspective, it was Cassin's stature and reputation, his formal position as a senior UN representative of France, his status as a delegate-member of the Commission on Human Rights, and his role in reformulating a nascent draft of the Declaration that influenced many to conclude that his role was the seminal one in the process. I believe that conclusion to be in error.

An effective metaphor for this situation, as quoted in Hobbins' work, *René Cassin and the Daughter of Time*, is attributed to Charles Malik of Lebanon. Malik was the original Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights and was subsequently the Chair of the important Third Committee of the General Assembly. It was this committee that was to recommend the Declaration to Assembly members:

If the Secretariat draft was the primordial womb of our declaration, the Cassin text was the first-born of that womb.<sup>13</sup>

### **John Humphrey and a UN Career: Phase Two**

To the delight of many who knew him, it is clear that recent scholarship tracing the origins of the Universal Declaration, one of the most important international documents of the 20th century, increasingly points to the pivotal role played by John Humphrey, in its creation. As both an intellectual and the operational anchor for the Commission, John Humphrey played a key role in the formulation of the ongoing drafts that resulted in the final version approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations. However, his work did not stop there. He also played an instrumental role in the development of the sisters of the Universal Declaration, the two international covenants which cover the gamut of political, civil, social and economic rights. They, together with the Declaration, comprise the International Bill of Human Rights.

Humphrey continued to contribute to the development of the operational machinery of international human rights in the UN system for the lengthy remainder of his tenure as Director of the Human Rights Division. Before he "retired" in 1966, Humphrey had established the UN Human Rights advisory services and rooted forever the sinews of a human rights culture within the values espoused by the United Nations. During this time, he not only protected the Division against many of those within the UN who sought to lessen its prominence, but he also successfully defended his Division and its employees against the mindless scourge of the McCarthy/Congressional witch-hunts. The role he played during the time of the Declaration's drafting and that which he played after its passage were fundamentally different. According to Hobbins :

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<sup>12</sup>Macdonald, *supra* note 3.

<sup>13</sup>Hobbins, *supra* note 9.

Prior to 1952, Humphrey worked for love of his job and a belief in what the UN was doing. After this, he appears to have stayed on from a sense of duty to protect the programme and the division from an unfriendly world. Indeed, Humphrey believes his greatest contribution to the field of international human rights was not the notable achievements of the first six years, but rather saving the programme in the 1950s and giving it a new direction in the 1960s.<sup>14</sup>

Nevertheless, his vision never failed to exceed the reach of his times. In 1965, fully 30 years before sufficient political will was mustered to allow it to happen, John Humphrey was calling for the establishment of a High Commissioner for Human Rights, a cause recently championed with great success by Canadian diplomats at the United Nations. It is also with as much irony as serendipity that the Hon. André Ouellet, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, in a speech before the General Assembly lauding the efforts and commitment of several prominent Canadians, addressed the need for a Rapid Reaction force, 40 years after a similar suggestion was made by Humphrey.<sup>15</sup>

### **John Humphrey et le Troisieme Age**

As a measure of his life's accomplishments, there are those who have argued strenuously that Humphrey's finest hours came during his "third career" when he left the confinements of the United Nations, returned to teaching and became an unspoken advocate for human rights education and an international activist on human rights issues.

At a memorial for Humphrey in May of 1995, a friend and colleague of some fifty years, William J. Butler, who had been Chairman of the prestigious and effective NGO, the International Commission of Jurists, remarked that Humphrey was rarely more effective than when he spoke out and acted on behalf of those who could do little to help themselves:

You can imagine, and I can never forget, this courageous, committed and distinguished figure now having resumed his earlier role as Professor of International Law at McGill. I remember him walking through the jungles of the Philippines visiting political prisoners in rotting jails, visiting Ninoy Aquino under arrest and detention at Fort Bonafacio in Manila, and complaining to the dictator military colonels in Athens about the detention of lawyers defending human rights dissidents.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>15</sup>A. Ouellet, "Canada proposes Rapid Reaction Forces for the U.N." Speech to the U.N. General Assembly, 26 September 1995. (1995) 9Canadian Speeches 7.

<sup>16</sup>W.J. Butler, "Remarks". Speech given at memorial to John Peters Humphrey, McGill University, Montreal, May 1995 [unpublished].

When most men and women were well into retirement, Humphrey championed the cause of the Korean comfort women and was also at the forefront of seeking compensation for the Canadian Hong Kong veterans of World War II. Prescient as always, he deeply committed himself to alleviating ethnic tensions in Burundi and at great risk to his personal health, plied his considerable talents in the Middle East striving for an honorable accommodation in the midst of conflict.

During this time he also founded the Canadian Human Rights Foundation and established what has become one of the finest Human Rights training programs in the world. He served actively with the International Commission of Jurists and Amnesty International and took a direct and personal interest in many of the outstanding human rights issues of our time. In addition to his numerous commitments to human rights education and social justice issues, John Humphrey remarried in 1981 to a remarkable woman, Margaret Kunstler-Humphrey. Her mettle matched John's, both with her zest for life and with her commitment to keeping alive the nature and memory of her partner's contribution. Like John, retirement was a distant millennium. In her eighties, she stills practices her profession of medicine.

John Peters Humphrey was a truly remarkable Canadian. Passionately engaged in the issues of the country he loved, he never lost sight of his role as "a citizen of the wider world." His contribution to the world community can never be relegated to the preparation of articles on paper, but rather to the symbols of justice and freedom that these universal articles have come to represent. As with the Declaration, John Humphrey represented integrity, commitment, dedication and an innate sense of fairness. This is the essence that drove this outspoken, but modest, quintessential Canadian.

To honor John Humphrey is to honor the best of what we are as Canadians. In particular, this includes what we have offered to the world in pursuit of the indivisibility of being human and of having rights. To celebrate the remarkable contributions of this extraordinary Canadian, we not only enliven the memory of the man, but we also underscore the critical nature of the work he performed – a uniquely, but typically, Canadian contribution to our collective evolution in the international community.

**Dr. Humphrey's Publications**

(These represent a comprehensive sample of his major publications)

Humphrey, John P., *Human Rights & the United Nations: a Great Adventure*. Dobbs Ferry: Transnational Publishers, 1984.

\_\_\_\_\_, "The Parent of Anarchy." *International Journal (CIIA)*, 1(1), Toronto, 1945.

\_\_\_\_\_, "The United Nations Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities." *The American Journal of International Law*, 62(4), October, 1968.

\_\_\_\_\_, "The World Revolution and Human Rights." Unidentified published monograph.

\_\_\_\_\_, "The Right of Petition in the United Nations." *Revue des droits de l'homme/ Human Rights Journal*, IV(2), 1971.

\_\_\_\_\_, *No Distant Millennium, The International Law of Human Rights*, UNESCO-UN publication in honour of the 40th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Paris, 1989.

\_\_\_\_\_, "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Its History, Impact and Juridical Character," *Human Rights - Thirty Years after the Universal Declaration*, Ramcharan, B.G., ed. Hingham, MA: Martinus Nijhoff Pubs., 1979.

\_\_\_\_\_, "The Main Functions of the United Nations in the Year 2,000 A.D." Extract from the *McGill Law Journal*. 17(1), Montreal, 1971.

\_\_\_\_\_, Rapporteur, "Human Rights and the Protection of Refugees under International Law," Institute for Research on Public Policy, Halifax, NS, 1988.