

In those countries linguistic minorities may converse in their language, may have newspapers in that language, may conduct assemblies in that language. In some countries linguistic minorities have the right to conduct schools in a language other than that of the majority. In other countries where various languages are spoken by different groups of inhabitants more than one language is designated as an official language and each language so recognized has equal status. Racial minorities generally possess full and equal rights of citizenship.

In considering the rights of linguistic and racial minorities a distinction must be made between four types.

In the first place there is the linguistic or racial minority which consists of citizens of other countries who are temporarily resident in a country of another race or language. Rights of such minorities are governed by international practice, custom and law.

Then there is the linguistic and racial group that has become a minority because some country inhabited by a people of another language and race has seized or has annexed the territory in which that group lives and where its ancestors have lived for generations.

Under the terms of the treaty effecting such a transfer of territory the inhabitants of the annexed territory generally are confronted with the choice of leaving the territory or becoming citizens of the annexing country. Generally the annexing country then endeavors to assimilate the minority. This is one contributing cause to war, for as that process of assimilation proceeds, that minority is often championed by people of its language and race who constitute a neighboring country.

A third type is the linguistic and racial minority which has become such because of its own free will it has agreed that the territory on which it

lives shall become a part of a country inhabited by people of another language and race and which, through union or federation, accepts citizenship in the enlarged country.

In the case of such minorities the act of union or federation generally confers full and equal rights of citizenship on the numerical minority and guarantees any special rights they may have with regard to perpetuation of their own language and race.

Also there is the linguistic and racial minority which consists of people who have migrated individually or in small groups to some other country with the intention of becoming citizens of that country. In connection with such minorities the general feeling is that so far as is racially possible they should be assimilated and that if they can be so assimilated they have no inherent right to perpetuate a "foreign" element generation after generation.

In countries where it is recognized that the greatest virtue of a majority is tolerance there is also complete religious freedom.

Any group which considers itself a minority must exercise discretion in asserting that it has rights and in demanding that those rights be recognized. The majority must employ fairness and justness in dealing with minorities and in recognizing minority rights. While the majority should scrupulously observe the rights of minorities, those minorities, too, should realize that they not only have rights: they have responsibilities too.

What are some of the minorities in our country? What type of minority are they? What rights do they have, should they have? Does the majority recognize those rights?