

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations General Assembly has designated 1971 as the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. This international year is to be observed "in the name of the ever-growing struggle against racial discrimination in all its forms and manifestations and in the name of international solidarity with those struggling against racism", and an appeal is made to all states to intensify and expand their efforts at the national and international levels towards ensuring the rapid and total eradication of racial discrimination.

Canada has so far been fortunate not to have experienced widespread racial strife. Its society is not, unfortunately, totally free of discrimination. That which does exist will be eliminated through education and increased understanding, on the part of all Canadians, of the inherent dignity of human beings. The Canadian government will continue to work towards this end with all means at its disposal, and would hope to enlist in this task the cooperation of all Canadians.

This booklet has been prepared by the Department of External Affairs to provide Canadians with a summary of the texts of the international convention and declaration dealing with the elimination of racial discrimination, and of their government's policy on the subject.