

provided the opportunity for a thorough examination of the various aspects of the Namibian question.

The encouraging signs coming to light in these territories can surely be considered to some extent as the result of the constant action of this organization in its efforts to put an end to the unacceptable and degrading policies of racist regimes. They can also be attributed to the influence of recent developments in the territories under Portuguese administration. The decolonization now in progress was, however, primarily brought about by the will and resolute determination of the peoples of these territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence. We applaud the rapid progress made in the past year by the Government of Portugal in bringing to an end its colonial system. We are pleased with the determination with which the Portuguese authorities are implementing their new policies.

The new countries emerging from the former Portuguese territories will require the support of the international community to help them to begin on a solid footing and to provide encouragement towards balanced economic and social development. In this context the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs announced, on April 11, a special mission to Angola and Mozambique, whose object will be to establish contact with the provisional governments and the leaders of these countries and to establish a basis for co-operation in all fields -- in particular, in the area of economic and social development.

...Racism and racial discrimination are not the preserve of any single region. As the distinguished Ambassador Salim of Tanzania stated so well during the meeting of the Credentials Committee at the last General Assembly, no country can declare itself free from this evil at one time or another. It consists, then, of a universal evil, which requires a universal effort to bring about its elimination. Governments of all countries must address themselves to the task and examine in depth their legislation and their social systems in order to bring about the removal of all traces of racial discrimination in any form. The responsibility of national governments is one that necessitates political will and continued vigilance in rooting-out or preventing racism. We are all personally involved in the struggle, both at the international and national levels. The individual effort in the struggle is a key element that must not be neglected. The elimination of racism and racial discrimination cannot be achieved solely at the governmental level by legislation and information programs. We must also scrutinize our own lives in an effort to modify attitudes, change mentalities and reject prejudices of a discriminatory nature