

On October 6, 1977 Ambassador Pierre Charpertier, Canadian representative on the Fourth Committee, delivered a statement on the item.

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The item before us should precipitate discussion on two distinct fronts. The first is the question of the role which foreign economic interests do, or do not, play in inhibiting the implementation of the Declaration on Decolonization in the territories of Southern Rhodesia and Namibia. The second is the question of the effect of foreign economic activity on the evolution towards self-determination in the small territories which have not yet exercised that right.

It is important, we believe, in our debate and in the development of our resolution on the subject to distinguish clearly between these two aspects, and not to make sweeping generalizations, which, although appropriate to one territory, are not necessarily appropriate to another.

With regard to Southern Rhodesia the facts are clear. It is the subject of broad economic sanctions invoked under Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter. As a result the onus lies on all foreign economic interests, in accordance with international law and the laws of their own states, to ensure that they abide by the sanctions and in no way aid or abet the continuation of the illegal regime. It is correspondingly the duty of every state to do all in its power to ensure compliance and to prosecute any interest which is acting in defiance of the sanctions.

The situation in Namibia is unique unto itself. In line with resolutions of the Security Council and the decisions of the International Court of Justice, there is an obligation upon member states to ensure that in any dealings with South Africa, they give no recognition whatsoever to its illegal administration of Namibia. Canada has taken this obligation seriously and has ensured that no treaty in existence between Canada and South Africa applies to Namibia. We maintain no diplomatic or commercial representation in Namibia. Furthermore, Canadian citizens who plan to travel there and Canadian companies which propose to invest there are advised that they do so at their own risk.

Turning to the question of foreign investment in small and frequently isolated non-self-governing territories, we must comment that we consider it important that in this debate a certain impartiality be maintained. We should not find ourselves discussing the merits of one economic system as opposed to another. Our overall objective should be to ensure that the economic development of a non-self-governing territory is carried out in a manner which is in harmony with the long- and short-term interests of the peoples of those territories. We consider it the responsibility of the de facto administering power to ensure that this is the case.