

Last year the present Government did vote against South Africa on a resolution which was a good deal milder than the one which was brought forward in this last session of the United Nations; after careful consideration we voted for those paragraphs in that resolution condemning apartheid in general but abstained on the paragraphs which named South Africa; abstained on the vote on the whole resolution.

Last fall South Africa was elected one of the Vice-Presidents of the United Nations and her Foreign Minister, Mr. Loewe, made an excellent contribution to the work of the Assembly. In addition to this South Africa has had a long record of worth-while accomplishments which it would not do any harm for the Canadian people to recall.

Just about 60 years ago the Boers in South Africa were fighting a valiant battle against the British empire with Canadian troops participating against them. After that war they were offered self-government and the great Boer leaders General Botha and General Smuts took the lead in accepting that offer and in setting up a government in that country. Within a few short years World War I broke out and they actually put down rebellion in their own country by one of their fellow generals in the Boer War of a decade earlier and their troops fought beside us throughout the World War.

In the intervening years General Smuts as Field Marshal Smuts became one of the outstanding world statesmen of my time. Other than Sir Winston Churchill there were probably no more outstanding world statesmen contemporary with Field Marshall Smuts. He made a great contribution toward world peace.

In World War II South Africa was with us again. Before we talk of voting against South Africa and of taking the course advocated by a delegation here not so long ago, a course that would lead to South Africa being thrown out of the Commonwealth, I suggest that all Canadians should just stop and think for a few minutes. If we adopt the sort of policy that would lead to throwing countries out of the Commonwealth there would be no Commonwealth left before very long.

Canada believes that the Commonwealth is of such great value in world affairs that a course of the type I have mentioned would be doing a disservice to the Canadian people and to the world at large. We have been able to use our influence for the modification of policies we do not like, but to come out and condemn a fellow member of the Commonwealth as has been suggested would be very unwise in our opinion.

So much for the nine subjects which have now been reduced to eight.

In conclusion may I say this. Canada is a strong young nation, steadily growing stronger. It is a nation, as I have pointed out, with a good record in world affairs, with