

Statement on Fiji made by Mrs. M. Konantz
in the Fourth Committee, November 26, 1965

Mr. Chairman,

I should like to speak on the draft resolution on Fiji which appears in Document A/C.4/L808.

The Canadian delegation agrees that the administering power should continue its efforts to create democratic institutions in Fiji and prepare the way for early independence if this is desired by the people of Fiji. My delegation cannot support this resolution because in our view it fails to recognize that further progress has been made under the new constitution in the direction of internal self-government. Universal adult suffrage has been attained and provision has been made for the evolution of responsible government.

In our view the resolution does not take into account the fact that in a country like Fiji where different racial communities live together, it is essential that the pace and nature of constitutional development should be suited to the wishes of the population.

Finally, the resolution does not recognize the desire of the Fijian people to continue at this time the link with the administering power.

For these reasons, Mr. Chairman, my delegation will abstain in the vote on the draft resolution on Fiji.