

Statement No. 108

December 12, 1967

SOUTHERN YEMEN

Text of Statement made in the Security Council by the Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mr. George Ignatieff, on the Admission of the People's Republic of Southern Yemen to the membership of the United Nations, December 12, 1967.

I should first of all, like my colleagues, associate myself with the well-deserved tributes that have been paid to our colleague Ambassador Kante of Mali, who carried out the duties of his high office in the month of November in such a fair and statesmanlike manner. Ambassador Kante had the distinction of presiding over the Council during the final formulation and adoption of a resolution which, in its potential for good in the Middle East situation indeed represented an historic decision by this Council, of which he should be justly proud.

The Security Council is now under the guidance of an esteemed friend and colleague from Nigeria, for whom the Canadian delegation has particular feelings of friendship and respect, a representative whose conciliatory spirit, broad experience and sure grasp of problems fills us with confidence, and for whose country Canada has special ties of brotherhood.

Today, the Council has met to consider the application of the People's Republic of Southern Yemen for admission to the United Nations. This application, following on the entry of so many new States during the past decade, is another sign of the importance which the United Nations has assumed in the community of nations. It is also another step towards making this Organization as universal and as comprehensive in its membership as possible.

An application for membership in the United Nations by a newly-independent State is always an exciting event, both for the new State itself and for the Organization. The process of decolonization, to which Canada itself has made a significant contribution, has been fostered by this Organization as country after country has made the necessary and desirable transition from dependence to independence. This process, as we know, has created difficulties and problems for both the emergent peoples of the world and for those former colonial Powers who have by stages promoted and encouraged it.