- A: I think so. Actually Czechoslovakia followed us. The Czechoslovak Representative spoke after I did. The Czechoslovaks seem to be the leaders on this particular subject among the Communist countries. And they were very much concerned about the question, just as we were.
- Q: And you think their concern is just as sincere as yours?
- A: I think so. I think it is a very genuine concern among all the nations.
- Q: Do you think anything will happen quickly as a result of this resolution?
- A: We are hoping for very prompt action. This will depend a good deal upon the Scientific Committee of the United Nations. Canada will do her part.
- Q: There is a great deal of comment in this country about our stand on the racial discrimination in South Africa. Last year we voted against South Africa on the item. This year we are abstaining. Why did we do that? Is our attitude changing?
- For one reason the resolution this year was quite a bit more A: condemnatory than the resolution last year and this, of course, is always a difficult question because Canadians are very much opposed to an apartheid policy. At the same time, South Africa has been in the Commonwealth for many, many years and the nations of the Commonwealth try to work together, and it's just a question how you can best bring about the result: by condemning them or by not condemning them, and trying to work with them in friendly way. The British have the same problem as Canada. They voted with the South Africans. We didn't. We abstained. We voted for the general clauses of the resolution condemning an apartheid policy but where there were clauses which named South Africa, on these we abstained. And the Australians did the same thing.
- Q: Another item, again a matter of a good deal of attention: the balloting for the vacant seat on the Security Council and the fight between Poland and Turkey. Canada backs Poland. Why?
- A: We think they have a gentleman's agreement as to how these non-permanent seats should be divided, and our understanding of that agreement is that there should be one seat for Eastern Europe. Also we do not think that the voting for the seats should be made a cold war issue. Poland's candidature had been announced some weeks before the United Nations General Assembly met, and then at the last minute