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Statements and Speeches

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CANADA REAFFIRMS ITS ABHORRENCE OF APARTHEID

A Statement to the Security Council of the United Nations, New York, March 30, 1977, by Mr. William H. Barton, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations

We are meeting in response to the request of the African Group that the Security Council consider the question of South Africa, in the context of the General Assembly's Resolution 31/6 of November 9, 1976, on the subject of *apartheid*, and the Security Council's Resolution 392 (1976) of June 19, 1976, concerning the violence at Soweto.

To say that this is not the first or second time the Security Council has taken up a subject related to the policies of South Africa is a considerable understatement. Over the past 17 years, the Security Council has repeatedly had to turn its attention to the policies of the Government of South Africa. It has examined the African policies of *apartheid* and so-called separate development in the light of Sharpeville and Soweto. It has been obliged to comment on the continuing occupation by that Government of Namibia, an international territory, and on its attacks on neighbouring African states in defence of that occupation. The Security Council has similarly deplored South Africa's refusal to live up to its international obligations under the UN Charter to respect the mandatory sanctions of the UN against the illegal regime of Southern Rhodesia.

All of these questions are still before us, but the core of the complex of problems involved in the question of South Africa is the policy of *apartheid* of the Government of South Africa, and it is on this issue that I intend primarily to focus my remarks today.

The Charter of the United Nations established as one of our fundamental purposes the achievement of international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, religion or language. Today, more than 30 years after those words of hope were written into the Charter, the task of developing international respect for basic human rights remains before us, largely unresolved.