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Text of Statement to be made by the Canadian Representative to the United Nations, Mr. George Ignatieff, at the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee for South West Africa, on Thursday, December 16, 1967

Daunting as the task is of this Committee, I venture some comments and suggestions on behalf of the Canadian delegation on the substance of the problem and in particular on the proposals put to us last Friday. I should also like to state as precisely and constructively as I can how the Canadian delegation sees the implementation of the task entrusted to the Committee being most effectively carried out on the basis of the organization of work which we have adopted.

I am first of all most grateful to the Ambassador of Ethiopia and his colleagues for putting forward some working proposals which give concrete form to the kind of machinery they have in mind for carrying out the direct responsibilities of the United Nations.

I share the view that all in the Committee in effect agree on the point of departure and on our ultimate destination. The point of departure is clearly outlined in Resolution 2145 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and in particular in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6, which I agree are inter-related.

I also agree that the aim is to recommend practical means by which South West Africa should be administered so as to enable the people of the territory ultimately to exercise the right of self-determination and achieve independence.

Our duty then is to discuss the means--the most practical means--of achieving this aim.

Here I would state right away that the proposal put forward by our African colleagues is being studied carefully by my government.