



Statements and Speeches

No. 75/11

A DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

A Statement in the Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, New York, by Mr. A.W. Sullivan, Canadian Representative, April 17, 1975.

The Canadian delegation wishes to make a few comments on the item under consideration, the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Social Discrimination. We are grateful to the Secretariat for the quality of the documentation that has been placed at our disposal. These documents are extremely useful in providing us with an outline of activities in progress or envisaged in the context of the Decade both within the UN system and at the governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental levels.

...Racism and racial discrimination are evils we must all work to eradicate, because they constitute an affront to the dignity of man and to the principles of equality enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments in the human rights field. We must struggle constantly to arrive at the elimination of all discrimination based on race and to rid ourselves, once and for all, of racial prejudices that have no basis of any kind. The Decade must provide for the conscious effort of the international community to work towards the achievement of such objectives. It should serve to focus public opinion, both national and international, on the problems of racial discrimination and the imperative need to find solutions within the shortest possible time.

Canada has always been entirely opposed to racial discrimination in any form it assumes, and has, in particular, condemned that odious form institutionalized in the policies and practices of *apartheid*, which unfortunately continues to flourish in South Africa. The racist regimes of South Africa and of Southern Rhodesia continue to pursue their reprehensible policies of discrimination and racial domination. Nonetheless, recent events relating to Southern Rhodesia and, to a certain extent, to Namibia, seem to us to provide a glimmer of hope, and may permit us to expect some positive evolution in the situation both so far as eventual abolition of a discriminatory system and the realization of self-determination in these territories are concerned. With regard to Namibia, I should like to mention that the Canadian Government recently welcomed Mr. Sean MacBride, the UN Commissioner for Namibia, to Ottawa. Mr. MacBride's visit