

## Brief Notes on Southern Africa

### (a) SOUTH AFRICA

For many years successive Canadian Governments have condemned the apartheid system prevailing in South Africa and have supported many resolutions to this effect by the United Nations. We have also, for a good many years, maintained a boycott on all military equipment going to that country, including spare parts. However, we have not taken the more drastic action of breaking off trade in civilian goods with South Africa nor have we broken diplomatic relations. It is hoped that by maintaining such contacts we can help to influence events in that country in a more liberal direction. The Canadian Government is convinced that self-determination for all people in South Africa is an inevitable development in the long run and that all reasonable means must be taken to encourage peaceful change, although we see few signs for optimism at the present time.

Within South Africa the internal situation remains tense and highly polarized although the very severe racial riots (SOWETO and elsewhere) which marked 1976 have not been repeated this year to the same degree. In recent months attention has focussed on the continuing hardline attitude of the government, particularly towards dissenters. The U.N. Security Council (of which Canada is a member) discussed the South African situation in April but took no definite action. It is expected to renew examination in June or July. On March 30 the Canadian representative on the Security Council (Mr. Barton) reiterated at length the reasons for our opposition to apartheid and he also joined in efforts in the Security Council to have a Declaration of Principles on the situation adopted by the Council as a means of expressing grave international concern over this situation. (This Declaration has not yet been passed.)

### (b) NAMIBIA

Canada's position on Namibia is similar to that of the great majority of the United Nations, as well as the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice -- namely, that South Africa is in illegal occupation of the territory. Accordingly, Canada does not maintain any diplomatic, commercial or consular facilities in or for Namibia; and Canadians who wish to travel to or invest in the territory do so at their own risk and initiative. Currently, as a member of the Security Council, Canada is participating in a joint initiative with the four other Western members of the Council (the U.S.A., Britain, France and West Germany) to determine whether this long-standing issue can be resolved in a manner consistent with the U.N. Security Council's unanimous resolution 385 of January, 1976 (which, inter alia, called for elections in the territory under U.N. supervision, for the release of political