

hearings and examined documents and produced a unanimous report which stated that the *apartheid* policy contributed to a situation threatening the internal peace and foreign relations of South Africa; and suggested that the United Nations might request South Africa to reconsider its racial policies, might propose ways and means of drawing up new policies, and might offer technical assistance of various kinds to facilitate the maintenance of peaceful relations among ethnic groups and their progressive development and collaboration in community life. The Commission's report further upheld the right of the Assembly to undertake studies and make any recommendations necessary for the implementation of the principles embodied in the Charter to which member states had subscribed.

When the report came before the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the General Assembly in November 1953, the Representative of South Africa moved that the Committee should decide it had no competence to intervene on the grounds that acceptance of the report's conclusions and recommendations would constitute interference in the internal life of a member state and a denial of the principle of national sovereignty. As in previous years, there was much difference of opinion on the question of competence. All the Arab and Asian and many Latin American states supported the competence of the United Nations to deal with allegations against a member state and to address direct recommendations to it. The Representative of Norway pointed out that acceptance of South Africa's resolution would exclude the United Nations from several fields in which its Specialized Agencies were doing most effective work. Canada took the view that the United Nations Assembly as the "town meeting" of the world had wide powers of discussion, including the item under consideration. Any action beyond discussion and the expression of concern, however, raised legal problems and might be inadvisable. In the past, Canada had doubted the wisdom of establishing the Commission, and, since it was now clear that it would not bring about any improvement in the relations between various racial groups in South Africa, would oppose its continuation. It was the view of the Canadian Delegation that the United Nations should attempt the possible, rather than the impractical.

India, with 16 other members, sponsored a resolution which, after expressing appreciation for the Commission's work, requested it to continue its studies, to suggest measures to alleviate the dangerous situation now obtaining in South Africa and to promote a peaceful settlement, and invited South Africa to co-operate. Discussion of this fairly mild resolution, which avoided condemning South Africa, turned first on the usefulness of prolonging the Commission, whose work, it was alleged, had so far resulted only in a hardening of South Africa's attitude. A proposal to broaden its terms of reference to the world in general and thus bring it more clearly within the competence of the United Nations found little favour. With the exception of South Africa, all representatives who spoke condemned racial discrimination in general terms and reflected the widespread concern felt towards South African policies.

In the *Ad Hoc* Committee, the resolution proposed by South Africa was rejected by 42 votes, with 7 in favour and 7 abstentions