

view these benefits do not affect the basic issue, which concerns the intrinsic evils of a system that deliberately asserts the idea of racial superiority of one group over another within the national community.

The systematic restraint of human liberties which the practice of this policy involves has already given rise to tragic outbreaks of violence in South Africa. None of us would venture to speculate on the course of events in that unhappy country, if the present policies are perpetuated or intensified.

It had been our earnest hope that at this sixteenth session of the United Nations General Assembly, we might have had indication of a reversal of the direction of the South African Government's policy. As my delegation observed in this Committee at the fifteenth session, we all recognize the difficulties of the problem, and no one would expect that the apartheid system, developed and intensified over a long period, could be suddenly eliminated. What we must unequivocally insist upon is that the trend toward ever more harsh application of this evil doctrine should be halted, and that a progressive course back toward morally acceptable standards should be adopted by the Government of South Africa.

Unhappily, no such reassurance has been forthcoming. On the contrary, the distinguished Foreign Minister of South Africa has underlined before this Committee his Government's determination to continue to pursue its present policies. It is against this background that I turn now to the second aspect of the item before us - the question of what decisions we should recommend to the United Nations General Assembly on this matter.

In light of continuing refusal of the present South African authorities to heed repeated appeals from the international community for a revision of its apartheid policy, my delegation can well understand the depth of indignation that has led to the very far-reaching proposal contained in Document L71. We thoroughly share the sense of frustration expressed by the co-sponsors, over the failure of past appeals from the United Nations General Assembly to bring to an end the practice of apartheid. But we are dealing here with an evil philosophy which can, in the final analysis, only be overcome by moral suasion. It remains the view of my delegation, therefore, that our common purpose of bringing the weight of world opinion effectively to bear upon the South African authorities would not be advanced by the adoption of measures which would only further isolate South Africa from the world community.

We have, therefore, deep reservations about the measures proposed in draft Resolution L71, which involve considering the exclusion of the Republic of South Africa from the United Nations, and various sanctions which would similarly contribute to its isolation. I need not recount here the several specific arguments which have been adduced against the application of economic and other sanctions in the circumstances we are considering. My delegation sees validity in many of these objections. But our over-riding reservation about any proposal which envisages the expulsion of South Africa from this organization, or other measures which might lead to South Africa's departure from it, is that we would thereby defeat our fundamental purpose of bringing the maximum international pressure to bear on the Government in Pretoria.

Mr. Chairman, I think we cannot emphasize too strongly the point made by several delegates during our debate here, that we should never lose sight of our objective in this matter. The aim of whatever resolution we adopt must be, not relieve the feeling of member states about apartheid - however proper and