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ITEM 118: Implementation of the Declaration on the
Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries
and Peoples by the specialized agencies
and the international institutions
associated with the United Nations

Dept. of External Affairs
Min. des Affaires extérieures
OTTAWA

NOV 6 1989

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Explanation of Vote delivered by M.G. Miller
Fourth Committee, October 25, 1989

Canada is pleased that several major improvements to the draft text enable it to support this resolution this year. These improvements relate in part to the elimination of name-calling. We still have some basic reservations, however, which we must bring to your attention. The new preambular paragraph 12 characterizes any form of contact with South Africa as an endorsement of apartheid. Since we assume this would also apply to those distinguished African statesman who have conferred with South African leaders over the past year, to say nothing of countries like Canada, whose main objective in retaining diplomatic relations with South Africa is to monitor and maintain pressure on apartheid and assist its victims, we consider this paragraph to be gratuitous and unhelpful. If there were to be a separate vote on it, Canada would abstain. Canada also reiterates its reservation with res paragraph ten, which ignores the independence of the international financial institutions. Finally, and encouragingly, we welcome the deletion of references to Namibia, in accord with the impartiality arrangements approved by the Security Council and communicated by the Secretary General, to apply throughout this very crucial transition period.