



Bulletin

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ELIMINATION OF RACIAL BIAS

The following statement was made on October 21 to the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly by the Canadian representative, Miss Renaude Lapointe:

The Third Committee is called upon again this year to consider the problem of racial discrimination – which is to say this phenomenon still exists. There is no lack of legal texts in this area. The adoption by the United Nations of instruments such as the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination represents an extremely positive aspect of the international effort for the promotion of human rights, and this is all to the credit of this organization.

What is written is well written. But can we be satisfied to the same extent with the application of the principles which the international community took 25 years to formulate or to set down on paper definitively? The observance of rules has not kept

pace with the legislative rhythm of the United Nations in the field of human rights, and it is on this point that the organization must concentrate its activity in the future.

Racial discrimination, of which *apartheid* is the most odious embodiment, must be vigorously condemned. The steadfastness of our efforts to eradicate this phenomenon is indeed, and will remain, the criterion of the seriousness with which the community of peoples strove to eliminate this aberrant notion.

THE CLASSIC CONVENTION

The Canadian delegation, for one, rejoiced at the coming into force in January 1969 of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination. This event represented a great step towards a truly ideal human fraternity. My delegation is happy to have been, for the last few days, among those states which have ratified this Convention. It is the modest contribution of a country which firmly believes in the respect of human rights, a foundation-stone of the Canadian society.

My delegation cannot neglect to underline the recent federal legislation on hate propaganda and genocide. We also wish to mention the very real legislative effort which has been made these last few years in Canada, at both the provincial and federal levels, in the field of human rights.

Canada is also determined to take a more active and effective part in international action concerning human rights and will regularly pursue consultations with the Canadian provinces, which, under our constitution, have jurisdiction in this area. Consequently, our country should be in a better position to ratify with expediency the other United Nations conventions dealing with human rights.

Canada fully subscribes to the ideas of celebrating in 1971 International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. It is in this spirit that we have supported Resolution 2544 of the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly

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