

would have, did not mean on our part any judgment one way or the other on the issue of the question. As the Minister of National Health and Welfare pointed out when he spoke on this measure:

"Our friendship for the South African people is deep and abiding. We in Canada recognize the immensity of the racial problem - which is not only a South African problem, but we are also very acutely conscious of the concern of the Canadian people and of people throughout the world on questions involving racial discrimination. Discriminatory policies of any kind anywhere are contrary to the spirit both of the Charter and of our times. We do not believe that in the long run history offers much hope that such policies can accomplish their purpose or can endure."

There are other questions of this kind which are before the Assembly but which have not yet come up for decision and I think it would be inappropriate for me to speak of them at this time. In concluding my observations on the United Nations and on the Assembly I should like to make one or two general remarks. The United Nations organization - and this Assembly certainly shows it - is in a very difficult stage of its development. It is having troubles and new obstacles to overcome. It is having its discouragements and its defeats, but those of us who are inclined to criticize it too prematurely, too rashly or too strongly should realize, I think, that the United Nations is not either a court or a superstate. If I may put it this way, it is only a mirror which reflects the picture of what is going on in the world today, and if the picture is unpleasant, and indeed at times terrifying, that is not the fault of the mirror if the reflection is an honest one. It is the fault of those who belong to the United Nations and who, by their policies, do not make it possible for that organization to work as it was intended it should work by those who drew up the charter at San Francisco.

Above all, it is the fault of this division of the world into two camps, which is reflected in the cold war. Practically every item that comes before any United Nations body now, including the General Assembly, is interpreted in terms of the cold war, even the most minute and technical item. That indeed is a tragic development and one which we could hardly have foreseen when the Charter was drawn up. When you are confronted at New York now with a resolution, a proposal or a statement, the first reaction of most people is not "what does it say" but "who said it" or "who wrote it"? That in itself gives a fairly discouraging picture of our chances of making constructive progress in these major political issues as long as this tragic division continues.

These difficulties are increased, I think, by the uneasiness and low morale in the secretariat of the United Nations which is the agent for conducting the day to day business of the organization. It is a fact that in some minds and because of certain developments the international character of the Secretariat, which we so rightly stressed at San Francisco, may be lost and that members of the Secretariat will merely become the nominees of their respective governments owing loyalty not primarily to the international organization, which should be the case, but to these governments.