

On March 21, the world observes the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It is an outstanding occasion for Canadians to reflect on, and rededicate themselves to the principles of human equality and dignity which form the basis of both the Canadian Charter of Human Rights and the Charter of the United Nations.

This day, March 21, which was established by the United Nations to commemorate the incident on March 21, 1960 at Sharpeville, South Africa, reflects most vividly the important role played by the United Nations in the struggle to arrive at a world order based on mutual respect and understanding among peoples. In 1965 the United Nations General Assembly gave legal form to the concept of racial equality when it adopted the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Canada has adhered to this Convention and the Canadian instrument of ratification was deposited in October 1970.

The Canadian Government intends, subject to parliamentary approval, to make this year a contribution of \$50,000. to the United Nations Consolidated Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africans and an additional contribution of \$10,000 to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa.

The purpose of the United Nations Consolidated Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africans is to enable southern Africans to play a full part in the development of their societies and Africa as a whole, through training and education abroad.

The United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa was established by the General Assembly in 1965 to assist victims of apartheid and their dependants. Its purpose is to supplement the assistance already being provided to voluntary organizations distributing aid to South African refugees, and countries giving asylum to these refugees.

Canadians have not always met the challenge of racial discrimination. The tensions within our own society in this changing world test our good will and our determination. We, like others, must learn to overcome ignorance, prejudice and ill will and seek to build our society on understanding.

We must do more than just think about these principles on March 21. Canada's report this year on measures being followed to eliminate racial discrimination received most favourable comment from the United Nations Committee. Thus we are learning to carry out these practices every day.