

PORTUGAL

Ambassadorial Appointment

The July 9 appointment by the Liberal government of Bryce Mackasey as Ambassador to Portugal (an appointment which itself raised a small diplomatic stir, see "International Canada" for June and July 1984), was rescinded October 11 by External Affairs Minister Joe Clark. Later that month, the Mulroney government announced the appointment of former Liberal Speaker of the House Lloyd Francis. Mr. Francis, who lost his parliamentary seat in the September 4 federal election, ended his term as house Speaker when Parliament resumed in early November. External Affairs Minister Joe Clark was quoted as saying that the appointment maintained a tradition of allowing former Speakers "an opportunity to serve Canada in other positions" (External Affairs communiqués, October 11 and 24, *Globe and Mail*, October 25). Mr. Francis, whose appointment was accepted by the Portuguese government, succeeded Lucien Lamoureux (another former Speaker) as Ambassador in Lisbon.

SOUTH AFRICA

Canada on Apartheid at UN

The issue of South Africa's continued policy of apartheid received the attention of the UN General Assembly in late November, with Canada joining the annual debate. Recently-appointed Canadian Ambassador to the UN Stephen Lewis delivered a speech denouncing the South African system. In his statement, Mr. Lewis presented the Canadian view that pressure, both external and internal, was the most important factor in efforts to alter the regime's policy — a policy which Canada condemned with "every fibre of moral strength." Apartheid, he continued, "constitutes an unconscionable violation of fundamental human rights," and the world's nations must endeavor to promote change. Only in South Africa, Mr. Lewis said, was racism "enshrined in the law of the land . . . and supported by the full range of powerful government institutions." Apartheid, as a national policy, promotes poverty (both physical and emotional), and erodes the institutions of democracy and freedom. With inequality comes anger, unrest and violence — and in their turn, suppression and the further disintegration of a free society. Said Mr. Lewis, "the entire coercive apparatus of the state is enlisted in the service of injustice (UN Canadian Delegation press release, November 20).

Mr. Lewis saw the rejection of South Africa's new constitutional arrangements by the "coloured" and Indian communities as a sure sign of a "sorry exercise in tokenism." However, since some changes have been made, more might be possible in future, and it is to this end that the international community of the UN must work. Mr. Lewis cited internal changes that might promote change in the policy of apartheid, including the greater economic (and thus political) influence of the labor movement and the trend toward urbanization.

Taking this into consideration, Canadian policy with regard to South Africa encouraged change. It rested on the assumption that peaceful change was still possible and incorporated two further premises; that Canada opposed and abhorred apartheid, and that contacts and dialogue were essential for a solution. Among government measures taken to signal Canadian opposition to apartheid were a continued refusal to recognize South Africa's "independent homelands," an embargo on arms and military equipment, as well as provisions for "educational opportunities and assistance to self-help projects."

At the same time, said Mr. Lewis, Canada was opposed to the concept of total isolation for South Africa, since "racist mentalities feed on isolation." For this reason, Canada had continued diplomatic relations in order to maintain a means of communication through which to voice its opposition and its support for change. Such contacts also provide a channel for assessment of the situation in South Africa. Canada also supported the membership of South Africa within the UN, so that it might be "exposed to the pressures of world opinion" and be forced to "respond to international condemnation." While Mr. Lewis indicated that on the subject of sanctions against South Africa, Canada would "continue to think long and hard," the "inexorable" pressure of the UN must be maintained as the most direct and effective means of achieving change. As a "beleaguered oligarchy," the South African regime must be exposed to "tenacious and unrelenting" pressure.

Following his speech, Mr. Lewis was quoted as saying that despite the apparent retrenchment of apartheid within the recent South African constitutional emmendments, there still remained hope for peaceful change. "The opposite always happens on the eve of capitulation . . . Before it [South Africa] finally capitulates, before it finally bows to world opinion, it retrenches," he added. Still, Canada and nations with a similar view were "fighting for time" (*The Citizen*, November 28).

Canadian Bank Alters Policy

As a footnote to the issue of Canada's response to South African apartheid outlined in the UN address, a decision by the Bank of Nova Scotia to discontinue the purchase of Krugerrand gold coins from the South African Chamber of Mines was announced in late November. Church groups opposed to the racist regime, after a period of intense lobbying over the cause, had indicated their readiness to raise the issue of the South African connection at the Bank of Nova Scotia's annual meeting in early 1985. The groups, including the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, the United Church of Canada, and the English Canadian Jesuits, regarded the bank's decision as one having great significance. (The groups, as shareholders in the Bank of Nova Scotia, had intended to raise a motion requesting the ban at the next meeting.) It would provide a "signal to the international financial community" that there was increasingly less support for the South African regime, a group spokesman stated (*Globe and Mail*, November 28). In making its decision, the bank added that while it would neither list nor advertise Krugerrand availability, it would continue to buy and sell them (though not through the South African Chamber of Mines).