

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Canada Signs the Convention on the Elimination
of Racial Discrimination

Mr. George Ignatieff, Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, today signed the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, which was approved by the twentieth session of the United Nations General Assembly in a resolution adopted unanimously on December 21, 1965.

The Convention binds States which ratify it to condemn racial discrimination and to pursue a policy of eliminating racial discrimination in all its forms. Parties to the Convention also commit themselves to take concrete measures to ensure the adequate protection of racial groups or individuals belonging to these groups. The Convention further provides for the establishment of machinery to oversee the implementation of its provisions.

Mr. Ignatieff's signature today served to reaffirm in an unequivocal manner Canadian agreement in principle with the purpose of the Convention, i.e. the elimination of racial discrimination in all its forms.

Since a number of the Convention's provisions fall within the legislative competence of the Canadian Provinces, its implementation in Canada will be possible only with the cooperation of the provincial authorities. Consultations will therefore be initiated shortly with the Provinces with a view to exploring the possibility that Canada might formally bind itself to implement all the provisions of the Convention through ratification.