

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
(FIFTEENTH SESSION)

RELEASE ON DELIVERY

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STATEMENT MADE BY DR. A. ANSTENSEN, CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE  
ON THE FOURTH COMMITTEE, IN EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON DRAFT  
RESOLUTION L.643 ON RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN NON-SELF-GOVERNING  
TERRITORIES.

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Mr. Chairman,

As my Delegation did not take part in the debate preceding the vote on this resolution, we should now like to explain briefly why we voted in favour of it. In any other deliberative body, one would perhaps regard any explanation of a vote cast along with such an overwhelming majority as redundant. I have by now discovered that the Fourth Committee is a very unusual deliberative body, however, and I have therefore requested the privilege of an explanation. If it takes a little time, please don't blame me.

First of all, my Delegation wishes to congratulate the sponsors on their success - I should say, on our success; because Mr. Chairman, my Delegation, and the people of Canada whom we represent, detest racial discrimination in all its forms and will give full support to any reasonable attempt which promises to lead to the eradication of this inhuman practice, especially in the NSGT's. In this connection, I should mention that our Canadian Parliament, in its last session, passed an "Act for the Recognition and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms". This Act guarantees, among other fundamental rights, the right of the individual to protection of the law without discrimination by reason of race, national origin, colour, religion or sex. We can now only hope, and diligently work together toward the end, that the aims of the resolution we have passed will be achieved as soon as possible.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, may I indicate why in this case we have voted for the obvious intent of the sponsors and the spirit of the resolution, while having some reservations about the wording employed: