

II

A INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION:

B UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

The dignity and equality of all human beings, proclaimed in the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, were reaffirmed by the international community in the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Racial Discrimination, adopted by the General Assembly on November 20, 1963. Two years later, on December 21, 1965, the 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. The Convention not only calls for an end to racial discrimination in all its forms but, for the first time, establishes in international machinery to oversee the observance of its provisions. It entered into force on March 13, 1969 and as of December 1, 1970, 72 States had signed the instrument and 41 States had either ratified or acceded to it.

Canada signed the Convention on August 24, 1966 and ratified it on October 14, 1970. In the press release made on the latter occasion it was noted that because Canada is a federal state its ability to implement certain international conventions depends on cooperation between federal and provincial governments. For this reason Canada had withheld ratification pending the completion of an extensive review at both levels of government in Canada of Canadian laws and enforcement methods relating to the subject matter of the Convention in order to ensure that Canada was able to fulfill its responsibilities under the Convention upon its ratification. Canada's signature thus served to reaffirm in an unequivocal manner its complete endorsement of the purpose of the Convention and its determination to carry out these purposes.

A - TEXT OF THE CONVENTION

The States Parties to this Convention.

Considering that the Charter of the United Nations is based on the principles of the dignity and equality inherent in all human beings, and that all Member States have pledged themselves to take joint and separate action in co-operation with the Organization for the achievement of one of the purposes of the United Nations which is to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Considering that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinctions of any kind, in particular as to race, colour or national origin,

Considering that all human beings are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law against any discrimination and against any incitement to discrimination,

Considering that the United Nations has condemned colonialism and all practices of