

of the United Nations General Assembly, we might have had some indication of a reversal of the direction of the South African Government's policy. As my delegation observed in this Committee at the 15th session, we all recognize the difficulties of the problem, and no one would expect that the apartheid system, developed and intensified over a long period, could be suddenly eliminated. What we must unequivocally insist upon is that the trend toward ever more harsh application of this evil doctrine should be halted, and that a progressive course back toward morally acceptable standards should be adopted by the Government of South Africa.

Unhappily, no such reassurance has been forthcoming. On the contrary, the distinguished Foreign Minister of South Africa has underlined before this Committee his Government's determination to continue to pursue its present policies. It is against this background that I turn now to the second aspect of the item before us - the question of what decisions we should recommend to the United Nations General Assembly on this matter.

In light of continuing refusal of the present South African authorities to heed repeated appeals from the international community for a revision of its apartheid policy, my delegation can well understand the depth of indignation that has led to the very far-reaching proposal contained in Document L71. We thoroughly share the sense of frustration expressed by the co-sponsors, over the failure of past appeals from the United Nations General Assembly to bring to an end the practice of apartheid. But we are dealing here with an evil philosophy which can, in the final analysis, only be overcome by moral suasion. It remains the view of my delegation, therefore, that our common purpose of bringing the weight of world opinion effectively to bear upon the South African authorities would not be advanced by the adoption of measures which would only further isolate South Africa from the world community.