

lands, Luxemburg, Italy. Later the Representative of Italy stated that he wished to be recorded as having voted in favour of the resolution rather than as having abstained).

Whenever the subject has been debated in the United Nations, Canada has always made clear its opposition to racial discrimination wherever it might appear. Canada has not, however, supported resolutions which it considered to be outside the competence of the General Assembly or resolutions which approached the situation in a condemnatory spirit. At the thirteenth session the Canadian Delegation, for the first time, supported a resolution on this question, believing that it was in keeping with the terms of the Charter and that it had been formulated in a spirit of goodwill toward South Africa and with appreciation of the complexity of the problems. The resolution introduced at the fourteenth session was different in tone, however, and, in some paragraphs, introduced a condemnatory note which, in the judgment of the Canadian Delegation, would not have led to any favourable change of attitude on the part of South Africa. The Canadian Delegation therefore abstained on the resolution as a whole, while voting for those paragraphs which opposed racial discrimination everywhere and which called on all member states to promote the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Treatment of Indians in South Africa

The question of the treatment of people of Indian origin in the Union of South Africa has been considered by the General Assembly at each of its sessions except the fourth. The basis of the discussion has been a complaint by India, as well as Pakistan in later years, that under South African legislative and administrative measures, there is discrimination on racial grounds against people of Indian origin, in violation of the human rights provisions of the Charter and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. South Africa has consistently maintained that the matter is one of domestic jurisdiction in which, under Article 2(7) of the Charter, the General Assembly is precluded from intervening.

A Good Offices Commission which was established by the General Assembly in 1952 had no success and every year since 1954 resolutions have urged the governments concerned to seek a solution by direct negotiation. The South African Government, by way of protest against the inscription of this item (and the item of race conflict), maintained only token representation at the United Nations from 1956 until 1958, when it returned to full participation. At the fourteenth session the item was placed on the agenda of the General Assembly without a vote and assigned to the Special Political Committee.

In the past Canada had abstained on the voting on this question in Committee and plenary but during the thirteenth session Canada and some other delegations had been able for the first time to support a resolution. Its sponsors had modified the text considerably to make it less recriminatory and to avoid the appearance of automatic re-inscription of the item. At the fourteenth session the Assembly adopted, with 66 votes in favour, none opposed, and 12 abstentions, a resolution under which the General Assembly, inter alia, (1) noted that the Governments of India and Pakistan had again reiterated their readiness to enter into negotiations with the Union Government, with the express declaration that such negotiations would not prejudice their own position or that of the Union Government regarding their respective juridical stands in the dispute; (2) regretted deeply that the Union Govern-