

My delegation also has reservations about operative paragraph 1. We would find it difficult to approve everything in the reports of the Special Committee or endorse every conclusion and recommendation of the Sub-Committee on Aden. For example, my delegation notes that the Sub-Committee on Aden has stated in its report, and I refer to page 29 of Annex II of Document A/6000, Addendum 4, that, and I quote, "The failure of both the proposed constitutional commission and the London talks held in August can be attributed to the refusal by the Government of the United Kingdom to accept the provisions of General Assembly Resolution 1949 (XVIII) which, it would point out, not only sets out principles but also outlines the methods whereby self-determination and independence may be achieved."

While Canada is not able to agree with some of the recommendations made in Resolution 1949 (XVIII), we firmly support the right of colonial peoples to self-determination and to independence. We think each colonial territory has its own special problems — the United Nations approach should therefore be pragmatic with different methods applied to fit particular circumstances. Therefore, the United Nations must take account of the responsibilities of the administering authority as well as the wishes of all the peoples of the territory concerned. Accordingly, we believe that constitutional change in Aden should be brought about by consultation among political leaders in South Arabia and the administering power. We do not believe that it is appropriate for this Committee to attempt to impose a rigid timetable for independence upon those who are directly concerned. For this reason, we have difficulties with operative paragraphs 2 and 3.

Other operative paragraphs, in our view, do not reflect the actual situation in Aden nor the motives and policies of the administering power.

As regards that portion of the resolution dealing with the military base, my delegation sees no reason why the Committee should predetermine what the attitude of the people of Aden should be on the question of the maintenance of the base when their country becomes independent and to impose that attitude upon them.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I think there is a danger of our impairing the future usefulness of the United Nations on the question of Aden by adopting a resolution of this character. During the anticipated evolution of Aden towards independence, any possible role the United Nations can play might be inhibited by the Assembly's stand reflected in the resolution.