

whether too much weight has not been attached to them. It is our impression, an impression which has been strengthened from hearing the numerous quotations which various speakers have cited during this debate, that public opinion has been aroused and has been closely focused on the problems of Africa, particularly those of South Africa. We are led to believe that the racial problems of Africa have in recent years attracted ever-growing attention not only outside the affected area but, it should be noted carefully, by important groups and individuals within the countries concerned. This widespread awareness is undoubtedly here to stay and in our view will continue to grow, whether or not action is pursued in the world forum of the United Nations. There seems little likelihood that there would be any slackening of the pressure for a satisfactory solution to those problems, even if the Assembly were disposed to allow the "breathing space" to which the New Zealand representative referred.

Several delegations in the course of the general debate -- and I have in mind the useful intervention of the distinguished representative of Pakistan -- referred to the loss of prestige to the United Nations if we appeared to relax our efforts to find a solution to this most difficult problem. I wish to assure those delegations that the Canadian Delegation shares their concern and has the interests of the organization foremost in mind. We believe that the risks to the prestige of the United Nations are greatly increased if the Assembly decides to adopt courses of action which are clearly not capable of producing workable results. As I have said, we have come to regard the work of the Commission in that light, notwithstanding the considerable efforts of its members. It is therefore with the future of our organization very much in mind that we argue against the continuation of the Commission.

I have dwelt on these matters at some length because I wish to make clear to the Committee why my delegation will not support the seventeen-Power resolution. As we read it, the draft resolution is concerned primarily with the continuation of the Commission. We have always had reservations about the functions of the Commission and we see little reason now to suppose that any greater practical value will be derived from its work in the future than in the past.

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