

independence to Southern Rhodesia until majority rule, based on universal adult suffrage, had been established in the territory. Britain was again invited to convene a broadly-based constitutional conference to work out a new constitution for Southern Rhodesia. This resolution [1889 (XVIII)] was adopted by a vote of 73 in favour, two against, with 19 abstentions (Canada).

The Canadian statement in the debate recognized that a minority of 200,000 could not hope for long to prevent the African majority of 3.5 million people from participating fully in the political, economic, and social life of Southern Rhodesia. Canada sympathized with the political aspirations of the African population and hoped that all groups concerned in Southern Rhodesia could find a basis for agreement on an orderly programme of constitutional development. As a member of the Commonwealth, Canada was concerned that the final solution should be in keeping with the principles of freedom and democracy on which the Commonwealth was based. At that stage, however, the best prospect for making progress was through informal and private methods of consultation. Resolutions presented to the General Assembly should be judged in the light of whether or not their adoption would facilitate this process. It was with these considerations in mind that Canada abstained in the vote on the two resolutions dealing with Southern Rhodesia.

South West Africa

The debate on South West Africa was marked by bitter African attacks on the Western great powers for their alleged economic and military support of South African policies in South West Africa and concluded with the adoption of four resolutions. The first stated that the situation in the territory constituted a threat to international peace and condemned South Africa for its persistent refusal to co-operate with the United Nations. It went on to assert that any attempt by South Africa to annex the territory would constitute an act of aggression and urged all states to refrain from supplying arms, military equipment, petroleum or petroleum products to South Africa. The great majority of Western countries were anxious to vote for the resolution, but their appeals for elimination of the use of Chapter VII language and the embargo provisions went unheeded. The resolution [1899 (XVIII)] was finally adopted by 84 votes in favour, six against, with 17 abstentions (Canada). While agreeing with the basic aims of the resolution, the Canadian Delegation considered that it would be wrong for the Assembly to attempt to usurp the Security Council's responsibility for the imposition of sanctions in the specific circumstances envisaged in Chapter VII. In the Canadian view, such action by the United Nations, acting through the Security Council, should await the outcome of the International Court proceedings.

Under this resolution, the Secretary-General was asked to seek South Africa's reply to the request that a United Nations presence be established in South West Africa, including a resident technical-assistance representative. South Africa's refusal brought about a second resolution [1979