

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT

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APARTHEID

Text of Statement in explanation of vote made
in the Special Political Committee by the
Canadian Representative, Ambassador Paul Beaulieu,
on Wednesday, November 22, 1967.

My delegation has asked to explain its vote on the resolution which appears in Document A/SPCL.147 (Rev.1). I already have had the opportunity during the General Debate to express Canada's unreserved disapproval on all forms of racial discrimination. The policy of apartheid as practiced by South Africa with its violation of the fundamental human rights does not in any way justify a passive attitude. Besides contravening the principles of the United Nations Charter the policy of apartheid has potentially serious consequences for the whole of southern Africa. My country subscribes entirely to the concept of multiracial coexistence, as offering the best solution to ensure the maintenance of stability and progress in that part of the world.

In reiterating the opposition of my country to a policy which degrades the dignity of man, I am anxious to underline that we are in favour of measures which would bring about the disappearance of apartheid. In this connection the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada stated before the General Assembly during the general debate on September 27: "We have a legitimate interest in doing all we can to banish apartheid as an instrument of South African policy. At the same time we must recognize that the real interests of this Organization are best preserved by measuring our ends against our means." But the fact that there is no complete agreement among the members of this committee on the most efficient measures to eradicate such a policy, does not in any way imply an absence of unanimity in condemning such a policy. The Canadian delegation does support several provisions of the resolution which have been submitted to this Committee.