

of the member states believe that the provisions of the Charter concerning human rights are being contravened by South Africa's racial legislation. South Africa maintains that this is a matter of domestic jurisdiction in which the United Nations is forbidden by Article 2(7) of the Charter to intervene. The South African Foreign Minister has also said at the United Nations that *apartheid* is justified in principle as being the only satisfactory way to handle the racial situation in his country.

In protest against what it considered to be the General Assembly's unconstitutional interference in its domestic affairs, South Africa announced at the eleventh session in 1956 that it would maintain only token representation at the United Nations. The South African Government maintained this policy until 1958, when it announced its intention to return to full participation in the United Nations, in recognition of what it regarded as a more conciliatory attitude taken by some members towards South Africa at the twelfth session. However, when the item on race conflict in South Africa and that dealing with the treatment of people of Indian origin in South Africa were inscribed on the agenda of the thirteenth session, the South African Delegation announced that it could not "participate in any further proceedings during this session or any subsequent sessions of the General Assembly concerning these two items." The South African Delegation, however, did participate in the discussion on the other items on the agenda, with the exception of the item on the status of South-West Africa. At the fourteenth session the South African Delegation maintained the same attitude regarding the apartheid item as well as on the item concerning the treatment of Indians in South Africa.

The question of race conflict in South Africa was included on the agenda of the fourteenth session of the General Assembly without a vote being taken and was allocated to the Special Political Committee for consideration. A draft resolution on the subject was co-sponsored by 36 delegations from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe (the last being chiefly Scandinavian). After noting in the Preamble that the policy of apartheid was still being pursued, the resolution's operative portions: (1) expressed opposition to the continuance of racial discrimination in any part of the world; (2) called upon all member states to promote the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms; (3) expressed deep regret that South Africa had not yet responded to appeals that it reconsider policies which impaired the right of all racial groups to enjoy fundamental rights; (4) appealed to all member states to use their best endeavours as appropriate to achieve the purposes of the resolution.

All the delegations which participated in the Committee's debate were critical to one degree or another of the South African Government's racial policies, but some delegations also made it clear that they considered the resolution in contravention of the provisions of the Charter. There was some discussion also of the fourth operative paragraph, the sponsors attempting to allay the fears of some delegations that the paragraph was so ambiguous that it might be construed as enjoining member states to use economic sanctions against a fellow member. The Soviet bloc objected to the second operative paragraph on the ground that it implied that Soviet countries, along with the rest of the world, might do more within their own borders to promote human rights. Because of doubts on the wording of particular paragraphs, separate votes on each paragraph were called for by Canada and others, but all paragraphs and the resolution as a whole won majority support, both in committee and in plenary. The vote in plenary on November 17 was 62 in favour; 3 against (France, Portugal and the United Kingdom); with 7 abstentions (Belgium, Canada, Dominican Republic, Finland, the Nether-