

Voting Results

On December 5, 1953, the Ad Hoc Political Committee adopted a 17-power resolution continuing the United Nations Commission on the Racial Situation in the Union of South Africa by a vote of 37 in favour to 10 against (including Canada) with 9 abstentions.

The Committee rejected a South African motion on competence by 42 votes in favour to 7 against with 7 abstentions (including Canada).

When this issue came before a plenary session on December 8, 1953, the General Assembly agreed to an amendment sponsored by Chile and Uruguay relating to replacement of members of the Commission, and approved the resolution as a whole by a vote of 38 in favour to 11 against (including Canada) with 11 abstentions. In the plenary session the South African motion on competence was rejected by a vote of 42 in favour to 8 against with 10 abstentions (including Canada).

Text of Resolution
(Doc. A/2610)

The text of the resolution as adopted in the plenary session is as follows

"The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations Commission on the Racial Situation in the Union of South Africa established under resolution 616A (VII) (A/2505),

Noting with concern that the Commission, in its study of the racial policies of the Government of the Union of South Africa, has concluded that these policies and their consequences are contrary to the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Noting that the Commission has also concluded that

(A) 'It is highly unlikely, and indeed improbable, that the policy of apartheid will ever be willingly accepted by the masses subjected to discrimination,' and

(B) That the continuance of this policy would make peaceful solutions increasingly difficult and endanger friendly relations among nations,

Further noting that the Commission considers it desirable that the United Nations should request the Government of South Africa to reconsider the components of its policy towards various ethnic groups,