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Statement on Apartheid by Mr. Arthur  
Smith, M.P., Canadian Representative  
on the Special Political Committee,  
April 5, 1961

Mr. Chairman:

Canada, as a sister nation of the Commonwealth, has had a long and close association with South Africa. It is an association which was cemented by joint effort and sacrifice of our peoples in two world wars - such ties, Mr. Chairman, are not forgotten or severed by the fact that we are compelled to speak out in protest against the unnatural policy of apartheid followed in recent years by the Union Government.

The Canadian Delegation has participated in previous discussions of this item often enough to make very clear our position on the question of racial discrimination. We have no sympathy with policies of this sort, wherever they may be practised, and consider them contrary to the letter and the spirit of the Charter, contrary to the spirit of our times. The Canadian record of opposition to racial discrimination is clear and consistent. This position was reaffirmed recently by our Prime Minister during the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' meeting in London. Mr. Diefenbaker has reported to the Canadian Parliament on his stand in London, and I quote the following brief excerpt:

"Speaking for Canada ... I pointed out that we were opposed to racial discrimination and made it clear that I could not approve any formula or solution which did not maintain beyond any doubt that non-discrimination