

whom are Canadian, maintain a vigilant watch on the borders between Israel, Syria and Jordan. The second and much larger group is the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF). Under the command of Major-General P. S. Gyani of India, and with Headquarters in the Gaza strip, this force oversees the Israel-UAR demarcation line. The Canadian contingent of 950 officers and men is the second largest national element serving with UNEF.

Race Conflict in South Africa

The question of "Race Conflict in South Africa resulting from the Policies of Apartheid of the Government of South Africa" has been on the agenda of the General Assembly every year since 1952. For many years Canada, together with a number of countries, abstained on apartheid resolutions on the grounds that the recommendations were outside the competence of the Assembly and because of a belief that condemnatory resolutions passed by the United Nations would not contribute to the improvement of racial conditions in South Africa. Canada, however, voted in favour of a moderate resolution in 1958 but again abstained on a more strongly worded resolution in November 1959.

International attention was focused on South Africa's racial policies by the incidents at Sharpeville and Langa in March 1960, when 116 Africans taking part in demonstrations against pass laws, an integral part of the *apartheid* system, were killed by police action. These events were brought before the Security Council by African members of the United Nations and the Secretary-General was asked to hold consultations with the Government of South Africa to make arrangements to maintain the principles of the United Nations Charter. Mr. Hammarskjold visited South Africa in January 1961 and had inconclusive discussions with the South African Government.

Consideration of the *apartheid* item by the fifteenth session of the General Assembly was held over until the resumed session and took place immediately after the conclusion of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference on March 16, 1961, at which Dr. Verwoerd had announced that South Africa would withdraw from the Commonwealth when it became a republic on May 31, 1961. This additional evidence of South Africa's determination not to make any modification of its racial policies noticeably strengthened the attitude of many delegations which had in the past sought moderate resolutions on this question.

At the resumed fifteenth session the African Delegations insisted that a strong resolution on *apartheid* should be brought forward which would include recommendations for diplomatic and economic sanctions, while the Asian Delegations were in favour of a more widely acceptable resolution which would avoid specific sanctions. In the end, the two groups submitted separate draft resolutions, both of which deprecated policies based on racial discrimination, censured the racial policies of the South African Government