

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(EIGHTEENTH SESSION)

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STATEMENT BY
THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
IN THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1963

ITEM 31:
THE POLICY OF APARTHEID
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. Chairman,

The progress of the debate and the overwhelming vote in favour of the resolution 1881 of last Friday can have left no doubt of the desire of every member of this Assembly to induce the South African Government to change its racial policies. However, while we are all agreed upon the objective which we wish to achieve - the realization of a free society in Southern Africa with equal rights for all individuals and races - there is no agreement on the means to this end.

There have been demands from some members that South Africa should be expelled from the United Nations or that the Security Council should impose other sanctions on South Africa in order to force its Government to change its policies. Because we believe that the South African Government's racial policies are abhorrent and degrading and offensive to human dignity, does not mean that the best remedy is to force South Africa outside the boundaries of the world community. Expulsion would make it even more difficult to persuade the white population of South Africa to seek a way out of their present untenable position and could conceivably intensify the difficulties of the non-white population. (In this context, a reminder of Prime Minister Pearson's statement in Plenary on September 19, 1963, was made here.)

This Assembly has a most serious responsibility in this matter. My Delegation believes that only if we act with restraint is there any