

matter is not acceptable to South Africa. It is nevertheless suggested that the commission should be continued and that it should engage in an even wider investigation including an analysis of the economic affairs of South Africa. It has been suggested that the commission might consider what successful steps have been taken in other countries to deal with the problem of racial discrimination.

It does not appear that a further delving into the details of this matter is an approach which is likely to bring results. Further, the study of the problem of racial discrimination in its broader aspect and solutions which are being attempted throughout the world is appropriate for the Commission of Human Rights and for UNESCO, and these bodies are earnestly engaged in consideration of this problem. It is not, we think, appropriate to set up another commission to undertake duties within the competence of existing United Nations bodies.

To continue the commission, therefore, does not appear to us to be required by the necessities of the case. If it is merely designed to keep the problem alive and to continue the pressure of public opinion, surely this is not sufficient justification. We must consider whether the continuation of the commission is likely to achieve practical results. Apart altogether from the legal question of the rights of this Assembly to set up the commission, we must consider whether its establishment would in fact do good or may do any harm. If it is to result in a hardening of attitudes rather than to bring about co-operation and to further an improvement in human rights, the establishment of the commission is a bad policy and not a good one. In our view, having regard to all these considerations, it would be a mistake to continue the commission irrespective of the legal rights of this Assembly in respect to it and we will therefore have to vote against the resolution which proposes to do so.

It may be asked by those who feel deeply the need for urgent action to remedy injustice in what way can the Assembly continue to discharge its duties. We must not, I think, consider that every problem is immediately soluble. We must avoid rash and harmful action and work together towards a solution of great problems of human rights in a spirit of co-operation.

Without seeking in any way to enlarge the obligations of any member state or to infringe on the rights of any state, we have the right to expect this co-operation from all states in compliance with the pledge which we all have given in Articles 55 and 56 to take joint and separate action in co-operation with the organization for the achievement of purposes which include universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.