

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT

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PRESS RELEASE NO. 106
December 11, 1967

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SOUTH WEST AFRICA (ITEM 64)

Text of statement to be made in the General
Assembly by the Canadian Permanent Representative
to the United Nations, Mr. George Ignatieff,
on December 11, 1967 on the Question of South
West Africa

At its last regular session, this Assembly concluded with near unanimity that South Africa, by its pursuance of policies contrary to the interests of the people of South West Africa and principles of the mandate and Charter, had in effect disavowed its mandate to administer that territory. The Assembly decided that the mandate was therefore terminated, and that the United Nations would henceforth exercise direct responsibility for the Territory.

My delegation participated actively in the preparation of resolution 2145(XXI). It was our considered view that the Government of South Africa, by its introduction and implementation of the racial policy of apartheid, and by its refusal to accept supervision by the United Nations, had proved itself to be an unacceptable administrator of the Territory. This view was reinforced by South Africa's long history of failing to pay regard to the inalienable right of the people of South West Africa as a whole to self-determination. We voted for Resolution 2145 last year and we continue to support it today.

Having assumed responsibility for the Territory, the Assembly was required to decide how best to discharge its undertaking to bring self-determination, freedom and independence to the people of South West Africa. Throughout the search for a plan of action, my delegation was constantly guided by two considerations: the interests of the people of South West Africa, and the capacities of the United Nations. Resolution 2145 had rightly stressed the need to find practical means to administer the Territory and bring it to self-determination and independence. Various alternatives were open to consideration by the Assembly, including administration