



*Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson is shown delivering his speech at the United Nations General Assembly last September.*

Prem Chand, to enter into discussions with all parties concerning the arrangements for the transition to majority rule. The five Western Council members began discussions with the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the South West Africa People's Organization concerning the holding of free elections in Namibia under UN supervision and control, as called for by Resolution 385 of January 30, 1976.

The Assembly debates on southern African questions were affected by the Council's agreement on an arms embargo and by the knowledge that negotiations on Zimbabwe and Namibia were going on. Many of the resolutions reflected the spirit of the Maputo and Lagos conferences; others were inspired by more extreme views and a certain scepticism about the likelihood of the various initiatives succeeding.

In voting on the 30 Assembly resolutions that related directly or indirectly to

southern Africa, Canada was careful not to jeopardize negotiations in which it was involved as a member of the Council. On a number of resolutions that appeared to conflict with possible action in the Council, Canada decided to abstain or cast negative votes in agreement with the other Western Council members. As a result, out of 30 resolutions, Canada supported 16, voted against three and abstained on 11 – a larger number of negative votes and abstentions than usual.

Any resentment African members might have felt at Canada's voting pattern was more than offset by their favourable reaction to Mr Jamieson's announcement on December 19 of Canada's new policy on South Africa, which involved phasing out all its Government-sponsored commercial-support activities, stopping Government-account export credit and foreign-investment insurance, withdrawing trade