

The General Assembly

RESOLUTION
ADOPTED

No. 53/51 SELF DETERMINATION OF PEOPLES
(Report of the Economic and Social Council)

Text of a statement made on November 18, 1953, by the Canadian Representative on the Third Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mrs. A.L. Caldwell, on the question of self-determination of peoples, Agenda Item 12.

NOTE: The text of the resolution adopted on November 18, 1953, and the results of the voting are given at the end of the Canadian statement.

The Canadian Delegation has listened with great attention to the statements made by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.371/Rev. 1, and to other delegations. We could have supported most of the parts of the resolution, but we could not support the operative paragraph one which contains a directive to the Commission on Human Rights, and that has made it necessary for us to abstain on the resolution as a whole.

You will recall, Mr. Chairman, that in our opening statement in the general debate on Chapters IV and V of the report of the Economic and Social Council, we emphasized our opinion that the Human Rights Commission should be encouraged to concentrate its efforts on completing the draft covenants, which have been before the Commission for a number of years. We think it is anything but clear, what is meant by 'due priority' at the tenth session. There is lack of precision, and even some confusion, we feel, as to what is really meant. It may be that due priority at the tenth session may have little meaning if the covenants are to be dealt with first at that session, because it would be optimistic indeed to think that the Commission at its tenth session will have time to complete the covenants, and then deal with this question of recommendations relating to self-determination.

On that account we sincerely doubt the wisdom of a directive to the Human Rights Commission which requests it "to give due priority at its tenth session to the preparation of these recommendations".

VOTING
RESULTS

The following is the text of the resolution (U.N. Press Release GA/SHC/372) adopted by the Third Committee on November 18, 1953. It was sponsored by the following twenty nations: Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma, Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Uruguay and Yemen.

The resolution as a whole was adopted by a vote of 39 in favour (including the United States), 8 against (including France, United Kingdom, Netherlands, New Zealand, Australia and Belgium), and 6 abstentions (including Canada).