

decision of the World Court in the South West Africa case may have the unfortunate effect of slowing down this progress cannot but be a matter of deep concern."

Draft Resolution A/L483 (now co-sponsored by 53 members of the United Nations) is deserving of careful study -- first, because it expresses the views of so many member states and secondly because of the important implications its adoption would entail for the United Nations. Canada supports fully the rights of peoples to the unfettered exercise of their self-determination and we strongly deplore the uncompromising attitude South Africa has displayed in regard to South West Africa. My country is opposed to apartheid as a policy of racialism which is completely contrary to the inherent dignity of man. We consider, moreover, that such a policy carries within it the seeds of conflict which endanger the whole concept of multi-racialism throughout the African continent. Thus my Delegation fully supports the basic aim of the draft resolution. We believe that South Africa has forfeited its right to administer the mandate. My Delegation has given serious consideration to how we can give effect to this conclusion. I sincerely hope the co-sponsors will accept the following comments as evidence of our desire to make a constructive contribution.

Some speakers have expressed concern that the General Assembly may not enjoy full legal competence to assume the mandate unilaterally. My Delegation tends to the view that, in the light of advice we have received in the past from the International Court, particularly as regards the international responsibility of South Africa, this Assembly has an adequate basis for the action proposed. We do recognize, however, that, to take into account the doubts expressed by some speakers, there might be an advantage in having this matter clarified, if for no other reason than that any lasting formula for peaceful settlement of international disputes should be based on international law.

Other delegations have referred to the practical problems involved in asserting United Nations authority over South West Africa and in assisting the peoples of South West Africa to independence. These problems include what measures might be required in the face of continued intransigence by South Africa. With these observations in mind, my Delegation subscribes fully to the healthy sense of reality which the distinguished Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs urged upon us. For instance, his suggestions concerning the necessity of sharing the economic burden on an equitable basis were particularly salutary.

In our view, the suggestion which has been advanced that the resolution might provide for the establishment of a committee to study these problems and make recommendations to the General Assembly within a reasonable time has much to commend it. My Delegation has been impressed in particular by the suggestions put forward by the distinguished representative of Ireland. If the idea of the establishment of such a committee should meet with general approval, the question of how the basic objectives of the draft resolution before us can be achieved might await the committee's recommendations. These considerations should invite the thoughtful attention of all organs of the United Nations and of each member nation.