

Article 2 paragraph 7, do not appear to us to be convincing and if accepted might create a dangerous tendency to make the Assembly something other than a place where countries could work together in international harmony for the promotion of human rights and might result in groups of nations, perhaps with the best of intentions, attempting to impose their will on others and to encroach on individual sovereignty.

We do not propose to attempt to solve this legal riddle. We do consider, however, that irrespective of the legal point of view, a practical approach is possible in respect to the resolution proposed by the 17 powers (A/AC.72/L.14 of 24 November) recommending further action now to be taken.

The resolution introduced by the 17-powers proposes the continuance of the commission set up by the Assembly last year. When that Commission was established the Canadian Delegation had doubts both as to the competence of the Assembly and as to the utility of the commission and we abstained on the vote to establish it.

A discussion on matters of human rights can, we believe, do some good. The great concern of the United Nations in this matter of racial conflict has been clearly evidenced. South Africa has not felt able to discuss the merits of this matter here and that is a decision which is theirs to make and which we do not question. We can, however, venture to hope that the expressions of widespread concern in the United Nations and throughout the world as to policies of racial discrimination which many regard as being in conflict with the purposes and principles of the Charter will not be without effect. A discussion of this kind and such expressions of deep concern do amount to bringing to bear on member states the pressure of world public opinion. We do not, however, consider that this in itself is intervention prohibited by the Charter or in all the circumstances of this important and difficult problem that it is unjustified.

It is the earnest hope of this delegation that the Government and people of South Africa will not regard this discussion and the expressions of concern which have resulted from it as an unwarranted and unjustifiable attack on South Africa, and indeed that world opinion will not be ignored in considering the implementation of policies which have caused such great concern.

When we go beyond discussion and the expression of concern at a situation which has been brought to our notice and take such further direct steps as are now proposed, the legality, and in particular the advisability, of such action becomes questionable.

The commission whose report we have before us has not achieved an improvement of the situation which it was set up to study. This is stated as a fact and not intended as any criticism of the energy or sincerity of its members. The commission has enquired in great detail into this problem and has considered many aspects of the internal affairs of South Africa. It proposes a scheme of co-operation and assistance whereby the United Nations and South Africa might work closely together to remedy this situation. These activities and suggestions are no doubt well meant but it is amply clear that this approach to the