

the parties concerned to enter into such negotiations, appealing in particular to the South African Government to co-operate to this end.

The second resolution concerned problems of race conflict resulting from the South African Government's policies of apartheid. In this resolution, the Assembly deplored the fact that the South African Government "has not yet observed its obligations under the Charter and has pressed forward with discriminatory measures" and called upon the South African Government "to re-consider its position and revise its policies in the light of its obligations and responsibilities under the Charter and in the light of the principles subscribed to and the progress achieved in other multi-racial societies". South Africa was also invited to "co-operate in a constructive approach to this question, more particularly by its presence in the United Nations", and the Secretary-General was requested to communicate "as appropriate" with the South African Government to carry forward the purposes of the resolution.

Canada abstained on both resolutions and the Canadian attitude towards questions of race conflict was explained by Mr. Robert Ford in the Special Committee on January 16.

Mr. Ford said in part:

I should first like to make very clear to members of the committee that we have no sympathy with policies of racial discrimination wherever they may be practised. In reference to the racial situation in South Africa, we have always endeavoured to keep in mind that the Government and people of South Africa are faced by a formidable and difficult racial problem to which there is no quick and easy solution. We in Canada, however, have grave doubts about policies and practices adopted to meet the problems of a multi-racial society which are based on notions of the racial superiority of one group within the society— notions which we believe to be false. It seems to us that discrimination is more likely to aggravate than to solve the underlying problem. We cannot ignore the fact, furthermore, that policies of racial discrimination are inconsistent with the basic principles of human rights which underlie the Charter of the United Nations.

Having said that, I must also explain that, while we have never objected to discussion of the question of race conflict in South Africa by the General Assembly, we have in the past expressed strong doubts regarding the competence and usefulness of action taken by the General Assembly in its efforts to solve this problem. As consideration of this issue continues from session to session without any progress towards the solution of the problem, my Delegation becomes more and more of the opinion that this kind of intervention by the United Nations into matters of domestic concern of a member country not only has grave constitutional implications for this organization, but has little practical value.

As far as we can see, far from bringing about a change in the attitude of the South African Government to its policy of apartheid, United Nations action over the past several years has tended only to harden the attitude of the South African Government and has led to no amelioration of the situation in South Africa, which has surely been the aim of these discussions. United Nations action has, as well, caused the South African Delegation to withdraw from our deliberations. In his statement yesterday, the distinguished representative of Japan reminded us that—to use his words—"the situation thus created is not only harmful to the prestige of the United Nations, but also is paralyzing the peaceful and friendly discussions and jeopardizing as well a sober solution of this particularly delicate problem."