

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement No. 88

December 12, 1966.

APARTHEID

Text of Statement made in the Special Political Committee by the Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mr. George Ignatieff, in explanation of vote on Item 34 (Report of the Special Committee on the Policies of Apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa) on Monday, December 12, 1966

The Canadian Delegation regrets that it is not able to express its opposition to apartheid by a vote on the resolution before the Committee. Once again we have before us a resolution with whose objectives we are in complete accord, but some of whose specific provisions leave us with no alternative but to abstain, for the same reasons as obtained when we voted on a similar resolution at last year's Assembly. There are, moreover, additional elements in this year's resolution which we are unable to support. At the same time there are a number of provisions in it which we can wholeheartedly support, including that dealing with arms. Canada does not permit - and has not permitted for some time - the export to South Africa of arms, ammunition and military equipment.

Canada has consistently given voice to its complete abhorrence of the racial policy of apartheid which has been condemned by a succession of United Nations resolutions. The attitude of my Delegation on racial discrimination has, moreover, been made clear in the discussion of this question in the Third Committee. We recognize that this dangerous phenomenon, born of ignorance, fear and prejudice, seeks to break down normal community, social and even international relationships by means of discrimination and the denial of human brotherhood.

We condemn apartheid because it is contrary to the obligations all member states have assumed under the Charter and because it is contrary to the international Declaration of Human Rights. As my delegation pointed out last year, the present situation in South Africa is not one which can continue indefinitely. Indeed, we believe that by stubbornly persisting in its present policies in defiance of world opinion and of solemn international engagements, the South African Government is moving steadily towards disaster.