

number of informal sessions of one type and another, so that it can be said with a good deal of accuracy that the Security Council is now almost a continuing body meeting pretty much all the time, and one that has to be seized of the many serious problems that are generating and have generated tensions throughout the world.

For all these reasons, we in the Government of Canada thought very seriously this year when it became apparent that our election to the Council for the fourth time was probably going to come about. We had to ask ourselves whether, indeed, it was an appropriate role for Canada and, put very frankly, we had to ask ourselves whether we were prepared to make and to take the hard decisions that I have no doubt will be put in front of us over the next two years of 1977 and 1978. I think it is part of the Canadian tradition, and it is a reflection of that tradition, that, while we realized the problems that lay ahead, there was not in the last analysis any serious thought on our part that we could allow this opportunity to pass, or this challenge to pass. And so it is that, as of a month from now, Canada will be back on the Security Council.

What, then, are some of the issues that I see coming before the Council in the foreseeable future? Some of them are quite easy to forecast, quite easy to predict.

Undoubtedly, the whole troubled question of Southern Africa will, in one form or another, find its way to the United Nations in 1977. We, of course, have no way of knowing, any more than any other country has, what is going to emerge from the present round of talks in Geneva on the future of Rhodesia (or Zimbabwe, as it is now coming more and more frequently to be called).

For our part, looking at Southern Africa in total for the moment, we have, of course, consistently rejected and denounced the *apartheid* policies of South Africa. There has been no waffling, no qualification, in that regard. And, indeed, Canada was among those countries that urged, and ultimately achieved, the voluntary embargo by a great many nations of any sales of arms or sensitive equipment to South Africa, and we have scrupulously adhered to that policy for many, many years.

Incidentally, there is always room for discussion in responsible groups such as this as to Canadian policy with regard to commercial transactions of a non-sensitive nature with countries with which we have profound differences on matters of ideology. Up to now, we have taken the position that trade in commercial goods of a non-sensitive nature with South Africa ought to be carried on by private interests if they so wish, and that it is no part of the Government's