

Apartheid

STATEMENT TO THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS
BY THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR, MR. PAUL BEAULIEU,
ON NOVEMBER 10, 1967

OVER the past few years, members of the United Nations have found their attention to Southern African matters taken up to some extent by the immediate problems of the illegal declaration of independence by the minority regime of Ian Smith and the status of South West Africa. The human rights aspect of the *apartheid* issue is, to a large extent, fundamental to both those questions, a fact that is often obscured by more immediate crises both for the United Nations and for all those countries which cherish the ideals for which the United Nations stands. By speaking today, my delegation wishes to indicate that the Canadian Government and people continue to be concerned with the question of *apartheid* and believe that, until an approach to race relations in Southern Africa which is more consistent with the dignity of all its inhabitants is found, there can really be no harmony in that area.

The belief in human equality is a basic conception of the United Nations. Canada, like most United Nations members, holds the view that a society such as that in South Africa runs counter to all the fundamental principles of justice. We do not deny that some non-whites in South Africa possess a relatively high standard of living; it would be difficult to expect otherwise in a country as rich in natural and human resources as South Africa. However, this standard of living should not be regarded as a gift from the ruling groups. There are, unfortunately, still many countries in which racial discrimination can be found; human imperfection still exists everywhere. However, there is no country with the single exception of South Africa, where racial discrimination is enshrined in the legislative fabric of its society and where the government is committed to a policy of systematic segregation. No matter to what height of material or intellectual achievement a South African non-white may rise, he is still subject to degrading *apartheid* laws. We do not deny the rights of the white population of South Africa; all we and the overwhelming majority of the members of the United Nations say to them is this: We cannot accept racial discrimination; it is a policy which violates the letter and the spirit of the Charter and of the conventions and declarations of the United Nations on human rights, a policy which is not compatible with human dignity.

Canada has faithfully respected the resolutions of the Security Council of August 7, 1963, and December 4, 1963, on the export of arms and military