

## **Apartheid**

There was a growing demand during 1964 that action be taken by the United Nations to force the South African Government to change its *apartheid* policy and in June the Security Council met to consider the report of the Group of Experts (Myrdal Committee) which it had set up the previous year, and to debate the trial and imprisonment of South African nationalist leaders. The Group's report recommended that the Security Council invite the South African Government to call a national convention representative of its whole population to draw up a new constitution guaranteeing human rights and providing for a democratic system of government and that, if it did not give a satisfactory reply, the Council should decide to apply economic sanctions as the only peaceful means left to it. To this end, the Group recommended a practical and technical study of the logistics of sanctions by experts in the economic and strategic fields.

After debating the question, the Council adopted two resolutions, the first of which called on the South African Government to end the Rivonia trial and to grant amnesty to all those sentenced to death or imprisonment for their opposition to *apartheid*, while the second endorsed the proposal for a national convention in South Africa. Most important, however, the resolutions established an 11-member Committee of Experts representing each member of the Security Council at that time to study the "feasibility, effectiveness and implications" of economic sanctions.

In October, the Expert Committee sent to each member state a questionnaire concerning the implications of any measures, such as sanctions, that the Security Council might want to take. In its reply Canada pointed out, in part, that at the United Nations "the Canadian Delegation has repeatedly expressed the Canadian Government's strongest disapproval of the *apartheid* policies of the South African Government and its view that the Government of the Republic should alter its racial policies to conform to the principles of the United Nations Charter, and that these views have been brought to the attention of the South African Government... on numerous occasions..." The reply also pointed out that the Canadian Government gives no military or economic assistance to South Africa and that, in keeping with the Security Council's resolution of August 1963, it had not permitted the sale of military equipment to South Africa.

## **United States-North Vietnam**

On August 4, 1964, the United States requested a meeting of the Security Council to consider "the serious situation created" by the attacks of North