

TRANSLATION

Closer interdependence means that Canada cannot remain isolated from the crises which erupt elsewhere in the world. We are particularly concerned about certain unstable areas. The crisis which threatens the stability of the Asiatic subcontinent has got us greatly concerned. I have already mentioned the mounting East-West tensions and the Right Honourable the Prime Minister, Mr. Trudeau, dwelled on that subject. I am convinced that Canadians would find it unacceptable if their government were to maintain a policy of détente towards the U.S.S.R. while closing its eyes on Soviet activities in foreign lands. The invasion of Afghanistan had a very negative impact on the interests of the world community. The Russians' refusal to change their position on that question has seriously jeopardized the situation. For all practical purposes, the Soviet Union ignored world opinion as expressed in two resolutions which gained very wide support in the General Assembly. The peace and stability of that area and of the community of nations will be endangered for as long as Afghanistan has not regained its sovereignty, its independence and its status of non-aligned nation.

The situation in Southern Africa enables us to entertain hopes and fear deceptions. Hopes because there seems to be a possibility that Zimbabwe might evolve towards a democratic and multiracial society, but deceptions as well because the policies of South Africa remain unchanged. Last fall at the United Nations I spoke of the permanent affront to humankind which the apartheid policy represents. The government feels it is despicable.

We also maintain that South Africa must loosen its grip on Namibia. The mere fact that the Namibian issue remains on the list of critical problems in foreign policy proves it. The intransigence of the South African government is the only obstacle to a negotiated settlement, one which would allow the Namibian people to gain independence through a free and fair election in which all Namibians could take part. Such an election under the supervision of the United Nations is the focal point of Resolution 435 of the United Nations' Security Council and Settlement Plan. Our support in this regard is unconditional. However, new elements may have to be added to Resolution 435 to win over all the parties involved to its provisions and the terms of the U.N. plan. But I must point out that any addition must be in complete agreement with the basic principles of the resolution. In our view, there is therefore no question of amending the resolution, but rather of ensuring its implementation. The addition of new elements with the agreement of all parties involved should aim not at weakening it, but at giving it full effect.