

implementation of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice with regard to South West Africa. The Canadian Government has always entertained the greatest respect for opinions rendered by the International Court of Justice; we are, of course aware that such judgements are not legally binding, but we look upon them as authoritative expressions of International Law. We feel that in the interests of promoting the rule of law and enhancing the prestige of the Court, due consideration should be paid to these opinions.

As we have often stated in this Committee, it is the sincere wish of the Canadian Government that a solution, satisfactory to all parties concerned, will ultimately be reached on South West Africa, a solution which would respect the just rights of the South African Government in South West Africa in the same manner as it would allow the people of South West Africa to fulfil their legitimate aspirations. My Delegation believes that it is most important that satisfactory progress be continued to be made towards a final settlement of this question.

In this connection, Mr. Chairman, my Government has much appreciated the efforts made by the Ad Hoc Committee in its attempts to find common grounds of agreement with the Union Government, and I wish to take this opportunity to express to its distinguished Chairman and its members the gratitude of the Canadian Delegation for their valuable work. We are very pleased that the great majority of this Committee has now found it possible to have the work of the Ad Hoc Committee continue and we hope that the new Committee provided for in the fifteen-power resolution will be successful in pressing forward with the task that is being assigned to it. It is our earnest hope that the new Committee will find a sound and fair solution to the question of South Africa and thereby finally eliminate this item from our agenda.

With regard to the second resolution (i.e. the Eleven-Power resolution) Mr. Chairman, my Delegation doubted whether it was necessary and in these circumstances decided to abstain. It may of course be successfully argued that the normal way of modifying the international status of South West Africa would be to place it under a trusteeship agreement; this is a statement, however which has already been re-affirmed several times by the Assembly, and my Delegation has always believed that the practice of repeatedly re-affirming General Assembly resolutions is not a particularly desirable nor practical procedure.

Voting Results -- The Fourth Committee adopted the fifteen-power draft resolution (Doc. A/C.4/L.305/Rev. 1 and Add. 1) calling for the formation of a new nine-member committee by a vote of 41 in favour (including Canada), 1 against (Union of South Africa) and 11 abstentions (Soviet bloc and Administering Powers). Voting on individual paragraphs preceded the vote on the resolution as a whole. The fifteen delegations sponsoring this resolution were as follows: Afghanistan, Brazil, Burma, Denmark, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Liberia, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand and Uruguay.