

External Affairs Supplementary Paper No. 53/38

TREATMENT OF PEOPLES OF INDIAN ORIGIN IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Text of statement made on October 27, 1953, by the Canadian Representative in the Ad Hoc Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. G.B. Summers. Agenda Item 20

The various aspects of the matter now before this Committee have been ably, eloquently, and fully discussed by the distinguished representatives of various countries who have taken part in this debate. It is not my intention, therefore, to do more than state briefly the position of the Canadian delegation in respect of the resolution before us.

NOTE:

Let me say at the outset that there need be no doubt whatsoever as to Canada's position with relation to racial discrimination. We fully and wholeheartedly support universal respect for the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion. This is the goal laid down for us in the Charter to which we have subscribed, as have all of us around this table.

We must indeed be gravely concerned at serious allegations that human values are disregarded anywhere in the world.

On the question of domestic jurisdiction, I would repeat the position which has been taken by the Canadian representative on a previous occasion when this matter was discussed in the Assembly. We are in agreement with those delegations which consider that the domestic jurisdiction clause should not be given an interpretation which would be so restrictive as to render meaningless or insignificant other important provisions of the Charter. The right of this Assembly to discuss and make recommendations for the peaceful adjustment of any situation regardless of origin which it deems likely to impair the general welfare or friendly relations among nations is of the utmost importance.

In giving fullest support to all provisions of the Charter, we cannot, however, ignore those provisions which specifically exclude intervention in matters which are essentially of domestic jurisdiction. Widely differing views are held as to the effect of Article 2(7). We, on our part, have indicated grave doubt on previous occasions as to whether resolutions of this kind are within the competence of the United Nations. We are doubtful also as to the value of passing a resolution such as the one before