

Mr. President, we are once more facing a grave situation. Our organization is now in a position to undertake the task of bringing to independence, through peaceful means, a new nation. We must urge those who wish to stand in the way of such a noble enterprise to reconsider their decision. The South African government must realize that its defiance of the will of the international community, particularly when that Government has been so closely involved in a long negotiations process, cannot be tolerated. To those leaders inside Namibia who are being led to believe that they can solve their problems through some sham electoral procedure, I can only say: think of the future of your country. Make no mistake: a so-called government chosen through the so-called elections currently envisaged by the Administrator General will never be recognized internationally. It is not too late and I sincerely hope that all concerned will reconsider their course of action.

#### South Africa

In November 1977, the Security Council imposed a mandatory arms embargo on South Africa, the first time the provisions of Chapter VII of the UN Charter had been invoked against a Member State. This step confirmed a policy voluntarily observed by Canada since 1963. The invocation of Chapter VII of the Charter has rightly been regarded as a grave decision, taken only after the most serious consideration and a careful weighing of the implications. This decision therefore reflects our belief that the perpetuation of the apartheid system will result in a continuing deterioration of peace and stability in southern Africa.

Canada has also expressed its support for a call to governments to review their economic relations with South Africa. Although this element was not incorporated into a Security Council resolution, the Canadian Government nevertheless decided to take certain steps. On December 19, 1977, for example, I announced that Canada was phasing out Government involvement in commercial relations with South Africa and would issue a code of conduct to govern the behaviour of Canadian companies with operations in South Africa. The Canadian Government will continue to keep its general relations with South Africa under review.

#### Zimbabwe

Mr. President, my government is much concerned too with the situation in Zimbabwe. We had hoped that the Anglo/American proposals and subsequent action by the Security Council would lead to general agreement. The attempt to follow a different path has had no success, and the country now faces increasing bloodshed and uncertainty. A continuation of the war would also have the gravest consequences for the stability of the region as a whole.

Clearly, an early meeting of all parties to the conflict is essential if there is to be any hope of securing a peaceful settlement on the basis of the generally accepted Anglo/American plan. Canada continues to hope that the plan might still be successful and would be willing, in such circumstances, to offer appropriate assistance.

\* \* \* \* \*

Next, the Secretary of State for External Affairs talked about recent events in the Middle East. He urged the member states of the UN to promote the goal of peace in the Middle East and mentioned possible Canadian contributions in the future.