

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RELEASE ON DELIVERY

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Press Release No. 21
Press Office
750 Third Avenue
YUkon 6-5740
November 20, 1963.

Item 43 - Draft Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of
Racial Discrimination

Statement by Mrs. M. Konantz
Canadian Representative on the Third Committee
In Explanation of Vote in Plenary

Mr. President:

By adopting the Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Assembly has given greater expression to the pronouncement in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that all human beings are born free and equal.

The right of the individual to protection of the law without discrimination by reason of race, national origin, colour, religion or sex is enshrined in the Canadian Bill of Rights and elsewhere in Canadian law. Therefore, there can be no question about the attitude and action of Canada to a declaration of the United Nations which elaborates the provisions of the Charter intended to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. However, in the Canadian view a declaration should concern itself primarily with principles to guide the conduct and behaviour of nations. Since it creates no legal obligation it should be designed to exert the maximum moral influence. The language used should commend itself to the widest possible support.

My Delegation continues to regret that the Assembly should have found it desirable to depart from the text carefully drafted by the Commission on Human Rights at its 19th Session. When this draft was being considered in the Third Committee some views were expressed and some language included which, in the Canadian Government's view were inappropriate for a declaration and which involve for Canada considerations related to provincial jurisdiction.