

# PRESS RELEASE



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## International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

March 21, 1967

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination March 21, 1967, the Acting Prime Minister, the Honourable Paul Martin, issued the following statement:

"Under the terms of a resolution adopted at the 21st session of the General Assembly in 1966, March 21 has been designated as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. I think it is appropriate on this day to take appreciative note of the efforts of the United Nations to eliminate racial discrimination in all of its forms. From the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights in 1948 through the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in 1965 to the adoption of the Covenants on Human Rights in 1966, the United Nations has made determined efforts in the field of human rights. In part, through international treaties, these efforts have been designed to articulate a coherent philosophy which contributes to the work of the international community to remove vestiges of discrimination involving race, creed or sex and to strengthen the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. This is done by subjecting violations to the glare of public attention and by a slow but effective process of education.

Although Canadians must be careful not to acquire a sense of complacency, I believe that Canada over the years has made creative contributions to the work of the United Nations in its struggle against racial discrimination and I know that we shall continue to contribute as much as we can to these efforts. It is perhaps fitting to recall on this day that Canada signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in August 1966 and that the government is now engaged in the necessary process of consultation with the provinces with a view to ensuring early ratification by this country of the Convention. Our signature, however, has served to reaffirm in an unequivocal manner Canadian agreement in principle with the purpose of the Convention which is to eliminate racial discrimination in all its forms.

I hope that this day will serve to remind us of our commitment to the elimination of racial discrimination and to providing all individuals with the basic dignity which is their inheritance."