

CANADIAL DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(EIGHTEENTH SESSION)

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STATEMENT BY MR. LEO CADIEUX
IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE
ON THE QUESTION OF TERRITORIES
UNDER PORTUGUESE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Chairman,

In making this explanation of vote on the Resolution contained in Document A-C.4-L.781, I would like to reiterate that the Canadian Government has strong sympathy for the aspirations of the African people in Portuguese territories and views with deep regret the failure of the Government of Portugal to acknowledge its obligations under the Charter and to apply the principle of self-determination in its overseas territories, and we would call upon the Government of Portugal once again to cooperate with the United Nations.

We had certain difficulties in connection with the resolution on which we have just voted. While we could have supported a resolution requesting the Security Council to consider again the question of territories under Portuguese administration, we consider that the second half of operative paragraph 1 is drafted in loose and ambiguous language which might well be construed as envisaging action under Chapter 7 of the Charter, which is a matter for the Security Council itself to decide. We do not consider that the situation in these territories warrants mandatory Security Council action involving sanctions or other punitive measures, and we consider it is important that the language of resolutions on this subject should not be open to different interpretations. Since therefore we had this difficulty with operative paragraph 1 which is the most important part of the resolution, my delegation found it necessary to abstain.