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## Canada's stand on the question of apartheid in South Africa

*The following passages are from a statement by Ambassador William H. Barton, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, during Security Council debate on the question of South Africa on March 30:*

\* \* \* \*

The Canadian Government has spoken out time and again of its abhorrence of the *apartheid* policies of South Africa and of the pattern of institutionalized racial discrimination which is established under them. The *apartheid* system is cruel and demeaning in that it impinges upon the daily life and possibilities of the great majority of the citizens of that country. They are not permitted to participate fully in the economic, social, political and cultural life of their country on equal terms with all other citizens. Their lives are circumscribed by a web of legislation which prescribes which jobs they may hold, on which level, and at what salary, what kind of education is available to them and to their children, where they may live, whether they must live separated from their families, with whom they may meet, and in what circumstances. The cruelty of the system lies not only in the daily persecutions and repressions of African and other non-white peoples, but also in the fact that men and women can hope to live a peaceable life only by accepting the inferior and unequal role assigned by that society, and accept it as the lot in perpetuity for their children and grandchildren for generations to come.

### The Bantustan policy

A direct and unacceptable development on *apartheid* is the policy of "Bantustanization." The Canadian Government, along with all other member states of this organization, has rejected the so-called independence of the Transkei, the first offspring of the "Bantustan" system. We have done so because it purports to present as self-determination a system which allocates to 80 per cent of the population of South Africa, rights in only 13 per cent of that territory. Frequently the territory allocated to the blacks is poor and

incapable of being developed. Furthermore, the Bantustans are divided up into as many as ten unviable tiny parcels of land with no contiguous areas and separated by land reserved for use by whites. The Bantustan policy also discriminates cruelly against the millions of urban Africans who have not seen or who have not been directly attached to any homeland, and whose present and future attachment lies with the industrialized city in which they work, and to the townships from which they commute long distances each day of their working lives. This is no solution for the future needs of all South Africans. These artificial economic divisions furthermore make no sense in a sophisticated national and international economy which demands increasing regional economic integration rather than the contrary.

...The violence which took place at Sharpeville 17 years ago, and last year at Soweto, the latter resulting in at least 400 deaths, was not the result of outside instigation as has been alleged by South Africa; rather it reflects the profound discontent and frustration of the majority, and their determination to obtain the justice which they have been so-long denied...

The events at, and following Soweto, constituted a terrible human tragedy. But the greatest tragedy of all has been the South African Government's reaction to these events. Thousands of people were detained without charge or were arrested for no other reason than their status as social, religious or political leaders. Scores of them have been brought to trial under the repressive body of *apartheid* legislation. As many as 18 are said to have died during interrogations and captivity, and there are indications that large numbers of others have been tortured or subjected to undue coercion.

...We recall that in October of 1974 the representative of South Africa said

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