

Statement No. 77

December 5, 1966

PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES

Text of Statement made in the Fourth Committee in  
Explanation of Vote on the Resolution on Portuguese  
Territories by the Canadian Representative, Mr.  
Gordon E. Cox, on Monday, December 5, 1966

I should like to give a brief explanation of the position which my delegation will take in voting on the resolution on Portuguese Territories contained in A/C.4/L.482. We have stated before and we now re-affirm our deep concern about the situation in the territories under Portuguese administration, our strong support of the right of the people of these territories to self-determination, as provided in the United Nations Charter, and our deep regret that until now the Portuguese Government has not accepted its responsibilities to co-operate with the United Nations in this direction. We have, however, noted with interest the efforts of the Secretary-General to pursue discussions with the Portuguese Foreign Minister on which the Secretary-General has reported in Document S/7385/Add.4. We hope that the talks referred to will be held and we consider this a potentially hopeful aspect of the situation.

We wish to make it clear, therefore, that we agree with the objectives of the resolution. It is most difficult, on the other hand, for us to accept many of the paragraphs of the resolution and we shall therefore regretfully be unable to support it.

I also wish to make it clear that, with respect to Operative paragraph 8, the Government of Canada has not given any Canadian military assistance to Portugal for the last six years. The Canadian Government's policy with regard to the export of arms to Portugal has been communicated to the Secretary-General in notes dated October 18, 1963, and May 25, 1966, and hence the allegation made in the Committee by the representative of the USSR on November 25 on this matter is groundless.

Mr. Chairman, for the reason I have mentioned, the Canadian delegation regretfully finds itself obliged to vote against the resolution with the objectives of which we are in agreement.