

PRESS RELEASE



COMMUNIQUE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADA

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

NO. 47

FOR RELEASE AT 4:00 P.M.
AUGUST 24, 1966.

CANADA SIGNS THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, today announced the signature by Canada, subject to ratification, of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, which was approved by the twentieth session of the United Nations General Assembly in a resolution adopted unanimously on December 21, 1965.

The Convention binds states which ratify it to condemn racial discrimination and to pursue a policy of eliminating racial discrimination in all its forms. Parties to the Convention also commit themselves to take concrete measures to ensure the adequate protection of racial groups or individuals belonging to these groups. The Convention further provides for the establishment of machinery to oversee the implementation of its provisions.

Mr. Martin commented that Canada's signature served to reaffirm in an unequivocal manner Canadian agreement in principle with the purpose of the Convention, i.e. the elimination of racial discrimination in all its forms.

Since a number of the Convention's provisions fall within the legislative competence of the provinces, its implementation in Canada will only be possible with the co-operation of the provincial authorities. Consultations will therefore be initiated shortly with the Provinces with a view to exploring the possibility that Canada might formally bind itself to implement all the provisions of the Convention through ratification.