

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

No. 53/49 THE QUESTION OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA

Text of a statement given on November 12, 1953, by Mr. A.R. Crepault of the Canadian Delegation, in the Fourth Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, on Agenda item 36.

Note: The text of the two resolutions passed at the Fourth Committee on November 12, 1953, on this subject and the results of the voting are included at the end of the Canadian statement.

Question of South West Africa

It is the eighth time that our Assembly has been called upon to examine the question of South West Africa. We may therefore safely assume that the main issues of South West Africa have already been thoroughly examined. Canadian Delegations have had occasions in the past to explain in detail the Canadian position on this item. The Canadian intervention this year is accordingly limited to a brief explanation of vote, on the resolutions which this Committee has just adopted.

My Delegation has abstained on paragraphs 2 and 4 of the operative part of the resolution, because it is of the view that a more conciliatory language might have contributed more to the main objective of the resolution.

We have abstained on sub-paragraph (c) of paragraph twelve because of some misgivings about the scope of the proposed activities of the new Committee with regard to reports concerning conditions in the territory of South West Africa. My Delegation has also found it necessary to abstain on paragraph 12 as a whole. I wish to state, however, that our abstention had of course nothing to do with the establishment of the new Committee, but was prompted by the inclusion in that paragraph of the words "until such time as an agreement is reached between the United Nations and the Union of South Africa". We would have preferred these words to be deleted. This wording might attach to the establishment of the Committee a notion of permanency which we do not consider necessary or useful.

We doubt the value of being so specific about the terms of tenure of the Committee, when paragraph 14 provides for the Committee to report annually to the Assembly and when these annual reports will afford the Assembly the normal opportunity of review. My Delegation indeed considers, Mr. Chairman, that this right of review is necessarily implied in paragraph 14.

The Canadian Delegation has voted in favour of Resolution A as a whole (i.e. the Fifteen Power Resolution) as embodied in Document L. 305, Revision 1, since the substance of the proposal is chiefly aimed at the