

abstained in the voting on this question, considering that discussion in the General Assembly would not prove helpful.

At the 13th session of the General Assembly a resolution was introduced in the Special Political Committee by Iran, Mexico, the Philippines and Yugoslavia. It (1) noted that the Governments of India and Pakistan had reiterated their readiness to enter into negotiations with the Government of the Union of South Africa, with the express declaration that such negotiations would not prejudice the positions taken by any of them on their respective juridical stands in the dispute; (2) regretted that the Union Government had not replied to communications on the subject sent by the Governments of India and Pakistan and had not yet agreed to confer with them; (3) appealed to the Union Government to enter into negotiations without prejudice to its juridical stand; (4) invited member states to use their good offices, as appropriate, to bring about negotiations; (5) invited the parties concerned to report as appropriate, jointly or separately, regarding any progress which might be made.

The Canadian Representative spoke in favour of the resolution in the Special Political Committee on December 8, 1958. He noted that the debate had been moderate and that delegates had made it clear that they earnestly desired to facilitate negotiations. The Canadian Delegation was particularly anxious that negotiations should take place because fellow members of the Commonwealth were involved, and because continued dissension between South Africa and other members of the United Nations impeded co-operation on matters of common concern in which South Africa could contribute substantially. Some resolutions on the subject in the past had appeared to Canada to be unlikely to encourage the parties concerned to meet together to discuss the problems dividing them; the present resolution, however, had been drafted with commendable moderation.

The Canadian Representative noted that the persons of Indian origin in the Union of South Africa were South African nationals, and that the issue was therefore not one between governments regarding their respective nationals. In these circumstances, the appropriate role for the General Assembly was merely one of appealing for negotiations and encouraging the parties to come together in the spirit of friendly co-operation. Regarding the resolution itself, the Canadian Delegation would have preferred the Assembly only to take note of the fact that negotiations had not been entered into, although it was admittedly a matter for regret that one of the parties had not yet agreed to meet with the others; in any case the Canadian Delegation's understanding of the paragraph in question was that it expressed regret only with respect to the fact that the Union Government had not replied to recent overtures and had not yet agreed to confer. The Canadian Representative expressed pleasure at the resolution's explicit reservation with regard to the juridical position taken by South Africa. He noted that the reference to good offices left it open to member states to decide for themselves whether such action would be helpful. In conclusion, he expressed the opinion that the paragraph inviting a report or reports on any progress which might be made did not rule out the possibility of the parties concerned