

(1) Firstly: we felt, and still feel, that the wording of operative paragraph 2 and, more especially, of paragraph 3 might have been rephrased; not to "remove the sense of urgency" from the resolution, but to fit it to the practical realities which the application of it must now face. We still believe that politics - good politics, I mean - is the art of the possible. - There is a proverbial phrase in the English language, which cautions against heedless and precipitate action by saying that one "should not throw out the baby with the bath." One can readily understand and wholeheartedly support the urgent desire to throw out the dirty bath water of racial discrimination and of "colonialism" as that word is understood here (I trust you could hear my quotation marks); but one must be pardoned for wanting to make certain that the baby is not still in it.

(2) Secondly: the distortion of truth and of the meaning of words in certain remarks made by some speakers in the debate nearly succeeded in turning my Delegation against the resolution. The reference to the distinguished Representative of Ireland as a supporter of "colonialism" has been dealt with. I shall limit myself to one other example: we were told that "only die-hard colonialists would dare to speak against the draft". Dare to speak, indeed! Mr. Chairman, my Delegation wishes it to be distinctly understood, that we shall dare to speak as we please, according to our best judgment and in conformity with good manners and the rules of procedure, I hope; but otherwise, as we please. That, Mr. Chairman, is good democracy where we come from, and in most of the other countries represented here, where people still dare to speak their minds - no matter how strange that may sound to some ears.

I have referred to the distortion of the meaning of words as one of our difficulties. Trouble with semantics is of course not peculiar to this Committee, but a phenomenon which bobs up with increasing frequency in the ideological conflict of the cold war: words, even in the same language, are made to mean different things by different people.