

Mr. Chairman,

I should like to speak on the draft resolution on Fiji  
which appears in Document A/C.4/L.508.

The Canadian delegation agrees that the administering  
power should continue its efforts to create democratic in-  
stitutions in Fiji and ensure the way for early independence.  
It is desired by the people of Fiji, by delegation  
cannot support this resolution because in our view it fails  
to recognize that further progress has been made under the  
new constitution in the direction of internal self-government.  
Universal adult suffrage has been attained and provision has  
been made for the eventual transfer of power to the government.

In our view the resolution does not take into account the  
fact that in a country like Fiji where different racial  
communities live together, it is essential that the pace and  
nature of constitutional development should be suited to the  
wishes of the population.

Finally, the resolution does not recognize the desire of  
the Fijian people to continue at this time the link with the  
administering power.

For these reasons, Mr. Chairman, my delegation will  
abstain in the vote on the draft resolution on Fiji.