

External Affairs in Parliament

Portuguese Colonial Policy

Replying on December 5 in the House of Commons to a question as to why Canada has abstained from voting on a resolution concerning the Portuguese territories passed by the General Assembly on December 3, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin said:

... In an explanation of our vote in the Fourth Committee on Friday, November 29, the Canadian representative said that the Canadian Government had strong sympathy for the aspirations of the African people in Portuguese territories and viewed with deep regret the failure of the Government of Portugal to acknowledge its obligations under the Charter and to apply the principle of self-determination in its overseas territories.

Canada fully supports those parts of the resolution calling upon Portugal once again to co-operate with the United Nations. We do not, however, consider that the present situation warrants a recommendation for action under Chapter VII of the Charter, which deals with situations threatening to the peace. We believe that, under the Charter of the United Nations, this is a matter for the Security Council to decide.

Fishing Rights in Canadian Waters

Asked on December 5 to report to the House on "the negotiations with the United States regarding the 12-mile limit and its implications for United States and Canadian fishermen", Mr. Martin made the following statement:

... The Minister of Fisheries and I yesterday attended in Washington the second meeting with representatives of the United States Government following the announcement by the Prime Minister on June 4 last that it was the decision of the Government of Canada to establish a 12-mile fishing zone, to be effective some time in the month of May 1964.

When this announcement was made following his statement of intention to the President of the United States, the Prime Minister intimated that Canada would take into consideration the historic fishing rights of certain countries, including the United States. As the United States had a very definite interest in this matter, it was decided that the negotiations with the United States and as well other countries should be pursued. These began ... in the month of August of this year in Ottawa.

The second meeting took place in Washington yesterday. There will be a third meeting in Ottawa some time in January, which I believe and trust will conclude