



Statements and Speeches

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POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

A Statement in the Special Political Committee of the Thirtieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly by Mr. Louis Duclos, Representative of Canada, October 23, 1975.

Over the last several years, the Canadian delegation has repeatedly spoken out in this and other forums in opposition to the racist policies and practices of the South African Government. In so doing, it has expressed the abhorrence of the Canadian people and its Government for the iniquitous and demeaning system of *apartheid*; a system which, because it denies basic human rights and civil liberties to the overwhelming majority of the people of that country, is self-destructive and ultimately doomed to failure.

As the Canadian Government firmly believes that self-determination for the majority of South Africa's inhabitants is inevitable, it, like other concerned governments, is determined that all reasonable means must be taken to encourage and advance this process. My Government's actions in this regard have been fully consistent with its declared policy of encouraging social justice both at home and abroad as spelt out in the Canadian foreign policy review of 1970. Its actions are similarly consistent with the belief that the maintenance of peace and security for all nations and peoples is a priority concern, not only for Canada but for all peace-loving states. For these reasons, the Canadian Government has supported positive and pragmatic measures in the search for a rapid and peaceful solution to the South African problem, while rejecting any inconsistent or impractical measures that would not effectively promote fundamental change and could serve to increase international tensions.

We have witnessed this year a profound evolution of the situation in Southern Africa, at a pace that, not too long ago, would have been considered most improbable. I refer, of course, to the welcome achievement of independence for the states of Mozambique, Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe and the imminent independence of Angola, as well as to the efforts by such respected leaders as Presidents Kaunda of Zambia, Nyerere of Tanzania, Machel of Mozambique and Sir Seretse Khama of Botswana to seek solutions to the problem of Rhodesia. While the results of the talks held this summer were disappointing, the very fact that they have been held at all was yet another source of encouragement for the belief that the log-jam blocking self-determination for the peoples of Southern
