

SEEKING AN END TO RACE HATE

On March 21, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, asked Canadians to demonstrate their belief in the principle of human freedom by voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and the United Nations Consolidated Educational and Training Program for Southern Africans.

The United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa was established by the General Assembly in 1965 to assist victims of *apartheid* and their dependants. Its purpose is to supplement the assistance already being provided to voluntary organizations distributing aid to South African refugees, and countries giving asylum to these refugees.

The purpose of the United Nations Consolidated Educational and Training Program for Southern Africans is to enable southern Africans to play a full part in the development of their societies, and of Africa as a whole, through training and education abroad.

The Canadian Government intends to make a further contribution this year of \$25,000 to the United Nations Consolidated Educational and Training Program for Southern Africans.

SHARP STATEMENT

The following is Mr. Sharp's appeal:

"It is the conviction of the Canadian Government that the observance of this International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is a most effective means for Canadians to become personally aware of the need for progress in the elimination of racial discrimination.

"This day, established as it was by the United Nations, reflects most vividly the important role

played by the United Nations in the struggle to establish a world order based on mutual respect and understanding among peoples.

"Canada was among those that supported a resolution in the twenty-fourth United Nations General Assembly in 1969 which condemned South Africa for its repression of opposition to *apartheid* and demanded the release of all political prisoners in that country.

"Canada was also among the states which expressed support, in the United Nations, for the Lusaka Manifesto on Southern Africa. Canada shared in affirming 'beyond all shadow of doubt, our acceptance of the belief that all men are equal, and have equal rights to human dignity and respect, regardless of color, race, religion or sex'.

"It is this principle that should underlie the attitudes and actions of all Canadians. We should live in harmony, dignity, on a basis of equality with one another, and contribute to the development and strengthening of individual rights and freedoms for all peoples of the world.

"Canadians have not always met this challenge. Now, more than ever before, the tensions within our own society test our good will and our determination. But if we have any aspirations for Canada, we must learn to overcome ignorance and ill will and seek to build our society in understanding.

"Let us demonstrate our dedication to these ideals. I urge all Canadians to observe the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, through their relations with others, and on this occasion, through their voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, and the United Nations Consolidated Educational and Training Program for Southern Africans."

STANDARDS COUNCIL FOR CANADA

Protection for the consumer and assistance to manufacturers will be the major benefits of a national standards organization, according to Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Speaking in the House of Commons during the second reading of a bill establishing a Standards Council of Canada, Mr. Pepin said that the Council would "identify and encourage expansion of Standards in areas where the consumer is not now protected". "The user, in buying a product conforming to and standard, will know just what he is getting - and what he is not getting," Mr. Pepin declared.

A Standards Council of Canada, he said, would promote and foster voluntary standardization, preventing duplication, co-ordinating existing activities and diminishing the possibility of conflicting standards evolving in Canada. It would facilitate the flow of goods and services and improve the quality of production for both domestic and export markets.

INDEPENDENT OF GOVERNMENT

The Council would be "based on the principle of co-operation between all interested groups - manufacturers commercial interests, service industries, government, consumers", Mr. Pepin added. It would "speak for all Canadians". Independent of government in its policies and operation, the Council will be accountable to Parliament for its use of public funds. The Council will be concerned with voluntary standards only, and have no enforcement authority.

The Minister dispelled fears that the Council would replace existing standards agencies, or that the new organization would write standards itself. "Contrary to what has appeared in the press," he stated, "the establishment of the Standards Council does not imply a 'takeover' of present independent agencies. The Council will make maximum use of existing organizations. They will continue to maintain their own freedom to determine priorities and policies. Procedures employed by major standard-writing agencies such as the Canadian Standards