

Addendum for
External Affairs
Supplementary Paper No. 54/28/UN9/5

(Please attach to original)

TREATMENT OF PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN
IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

The General Assembly in plenary session on November 4 adopted as a whole, by a vote of 45 in favour to 1 against (South Africa) with 11 abstentions (including Canada), the resolution approved by the Ad Hoc Political Committee on October 28.

After the vote had been taken, the Canadian representative added:

No. 54/28/UN9/5 TREATMENT OF PEOPLE OF
INDIAN ORIGIN IN THE
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Text of a statement made on October 28, 1954, by Mr. G.D. Weaver, M.P., Canadian Representative in the Ad Hoc Political Committee of the ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, on agenda item 22 - Treatment of people of Indian origin in the Union of South Africa: Report of the United Nations Good Offices Commission.

Note: The text of the resolution adopted by the Committee and the results of the voting are included at the end of the statement.

In my brief remarks on this question I wish to say first, as have earlier Canadian spokesmen on this issue, that Canada wholeheartedly supports universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

The Canadian delegation will vote in favour of paragraph 2 of this resolution because it seems clear to us that direct negotiation among the parties concerned offers the best hope for a solution of this difficult problem.

We shall abstain on the remaining operative paragraphs and on the resolution as a whole for reasons which we have set forth a number of times in earlier Assembly discussions of this question. The Canadian delegation still believes that there is legitimate doubt as to the competence of the United Nations to intervene in this matter. We have therefore favoured obtaining an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the question whether Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter of the United Nations applies to matters dealt with in this complaint. However, this course has never commended itself to the necessary majority of United Nations members.

Regarding paragraph 3 of the resolution, we find it difficult to see how a person appointed by the Secretary-General would have any more chance of success than the Good Offices Commission, whose report indicates that they have earnestly and assiduously explored all possible approaches to their task.

In conclusion I should like to say that our delegation fully appreciates the spirit of helpful conciliation which has inspired the delegations sponsoring this resolution.

After the vote had been taken, the Canadian representative added:

With respect to the amendment submitted by the distinguished representative of India which was accepted by the sponsors and became paragraph 1 of the resolution, the Canadian delegation took into account the fact that it had abstained on the occasion of the setting up of the Good Offices Commission and therefore considered that it should also abstain on this paragraph.

Voting Results Following is the text of the resolution (U.N. Doc. A/Resolution/218) adopted by the Ad Hoc Political Committee on October 28, 1954, by a vote of 47 in favour to 1 against (South Africa) and 10 abstentions (including Canada).

Text of Resolution

The General Assembly,

Recalling that at several sessions it has considered the question of the treatment of people of Indian origin in the Union of South Africa and has adopted resolutions on that subject,

Having noted the report of the United Nations Good Offices Commission (A/2723),

1. Expresses appreciation of the work and efforts of the Good Offices Commission;
2. Suggests to the Governments of India, Pakistan and the Union of South Africa that they should seek a solution of the question by direct negotiations;
3. Suggests, moreover, that the parties concerned should designate a Government, agency or person to facilitate contacts between them and assist them in settling the dispute;
4. Decides that, if within the next six months following the date of the present resolution the parties have not reached agreement on the suggestions made in the foregoing paragraphs, the Secretary-General shall designate a person for the purposes specified above;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its next regular session on the results obtained.

