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INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION - MARCH 21, 1968

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, March 21, 1968, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, issued the following statement:

"By a Resolution adopted at the 21st Session of the General Assembly in 1966, March 21 was designated as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. At the current 22nd Session a further Resolution was adopted, calling upon Member States to observe the Day. The Canadian Government believes that observance of the Day will serve to remind all Canadians that their efforts must be untiring in order to achieve a world free from all forms of racial discrimination. Only through a continuous process of education and through the observance of such occasions as today, can the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms be adequately strengthened.

The United Nations has been responsible for considerable progress toward this objective, and this year's observance of March 21 is especially significant during International Year for Human Rights. The United Nations is convoking an international

conference next month at Tehran to review the human rights programme and to consider measures and methods to more effectively assure human rights to all the world's people. One of the items on the Conference's agenda is concerned with the rapid and total elimination of all forms of racial discrimination in general, and of the policy of apartheid in particular.

In August 1966, Canada signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The Canadian Government is continuing with the necessary process of consultation with the provinces, in the expectation that it will be possible for Canada to ratify this Convention at an early date.

I commend the observance of this Day to all Canadians. I hope that all of us will determine to do our utmost to ensure that not only Canadians, but people throughout the world, will enjoy freedom from racial discrimination," Mr. Martin said.