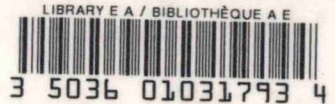


December 3, 1965



Mr. Chairman,

At the very moment when this committee has at last arrived at what can only be described as a very significant achievement in adopting the implementation article of the Convention before us, the Convention seems to us to be jeopardized by a last minute additional article, that is to say article XIII (bis).

Mr. Chairman, it is almost trite, but no less important, to remind ourselves of the fact that what we have achieved thus far has been the result of the spirit of cooperation and compromise which has thus far prevailed in this committee. Indeed, sir, as you yourself pointed out yesterday, despite the very frank exchange of viewpoints, often seemingly irreconcilable, we have managed to adopt the article of this Convention without a negative vote being cast. Yet, from these exchanges that have taken place both late yesterday and here this afternoon it seems clear that if the Article XIII (bis) as presented by the UAR, Tanzania and Sudan in document 1307 is pressed to the vote the record that we have established, will be broken by a significant number of countries voting against the article.

It is my duty, sir, to inform the committee that Canada will be amongst those countries that will be forced categorically to declare itself opposed to the inclusion of Article XIII (bis) as contained in document 1307 in the Convention. Although this stand will be open to misinterpretation because of the obvious principle which appears to be affirmed by this Article, we do not feel that we have to excuse our position in the light of what so many delegations have said before us. Suffice it to say, Mr. Chairman, that when the distinguished representative of Ghana, the representative of a country which no one here could possibly doubt stands in the forefront of

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those who oppose colonialism; when he, sir, expresses his delegation's embarrassment and indeed opposition to this Article, it should give all of us pause for thought and reflection on what exactly is being attempted by this Article.

It is not necessary for me, sir, to repeat what has already been said on the substance of this Article. It is clear, however, that it has taken on the proportions of a red cape tauntingly displayed before the committee. And what does it achieve that is not already enshrined in the U.N. or more specifically in the final clauses of this Convention? As the distinguished delegate of Ghana said yesterday in essence, sir, it achieves nothing in terms of substance. Yet, Mr. Chairman, let there be no doubt on this point; its effect is none other than to sabotage this Convention on which we have worked so long and so hard. If adopted it will give those states who would otherwise be morally compelled to ratify the Convention, a sound and understandable ground for refusing to do so. This we have managed to avoid thus far at the same time as achieving what we believe to be a strong and meaningful Convention. But let us be clear on one point, Mr. Chairman. If this Article in its present form is included in the Convention, it will give my Government grave doubts as to the value of ratifying the Convention, not because as should be clear from the unequivocal stand that we have taken on this item, we are opposed to the principle which it professes to support, but because it introduces a totally alien political element into an area already fraught with highly charged emotion.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, we can only appeal to the committee once again to turn away from the path of failure and reaffirm its cooperative spirit and respect for divergence of views, to support the alternative offered to us by the delegations of Greece,

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Saudi Arabia and The Netherlands and not to force this matter any further.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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