

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 21, 1973



STATEMENT DISCOURS

SECRETARY
OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS.

SECRÉTAIRE
D'ÉTAT AUX
AFFAIRES
EXTÉRIEURES.

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE HONOURABLE
MITCHELL SHARP, ON THE INTERNATIONAL
DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION

Subject to parliamentary approval, the Canadian Government intends to make in 1973 a contribution of \$74,000 to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for southern Africa and of \$10,000 to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa. This is in addition to the five scholarships which the Canadian Government has made available annually since 1967 for the training of Namibians in Canada. These contributions are indicative of the Government's abiding concern with the problem of racial discrimination in Southern Africa.

It is indeed appropriate that this announcement should be made today since March 21 marks the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Proclaimed by the United Nations in commemoration of the Sharpeville incident of March 21, 1960, this day is intended to reflect in a most vivid way the leading role played by the Organisation in the struggle to arrive at a world order based on mutual respect and understanding among peoples.

Canada has so far been fortunate not to have experienced widespread racial strife. Its society is not, however totally free from discrimination. With all the means at its disposal, the Canadian Government will try to ensure the respect of the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. But in the last resort, it belongs to each Canadian to respect these principles. We like others must learn to overcome ignorance, prejudice and ill will and seek to build our society on friendship and understanding.