

# PRESS RELEASE



# COMMUNIQUÉ

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADA

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

No. 20

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
21 March 1969

A JOINT STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE GERARD PELLETIER,  
SECRETARY OF STATE OF CANADA AND THE HONOURABLE  
MITCHELL SHARP, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL  
DISCRIMINATION

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Canadians are urged to observe March 21, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, by contributing to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and the U. N. Consolidated Educational and Training Program for Southern Africans.

In a joint statement, the Honourable Gérard Pelletier, Secretary of State of Canada, and the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, ask the people of Canada to show their determination to honour the intent of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through voluntary contributions to these programmes and through support for the principle that all peoples should live in harmony, dignity and equality with one another.

Following is the text of the statement:

"The Canadian Government believes that the observance of this International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination will remind Canadians that although much has been accomplished toward the elimination of racial discrimination much remains to be done.

"The United Nations has been responsible for a large measure of progress made in the world toward mutual respect and understanding between peoples and nations. Canada has played its part in the furtherance of this work of the United Nations.

"In 1968, the International Year for Human Rights, the Government of Canada, in cooperation with voluntary organizations and agencies, helped to bring to a meaningful conclusion a Canadian conference which took place in Ottawa in December. As evidence of its commitment in this field the Federal Government assigned to the Human Rights Division of the Secretary of State Department the responsibility of implementing a large-scale educational programme to promote human rights in Canada and of serving as the central point of reference for the Government's domestic interests in human rights.

"Earlier in the year, at the International Conference on Human Rights sponsored by the United Nations at Tehran, the Canadian Delegation secured the adoption of its resolution that governments encourage the development of comprehensive legal aid systems for the protection and maintenance of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

"In accordance with the great humanitarian objectives of the United Nations Charter and the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Canadians must live in harmony, dignity and equality with one another and contribute to the development and strengthening of individual rights and basic freedoms for all peoples of the world.

"Let us rededicate ourselves to the cause of racial equality in our hearts and by our generosity. We urge all the people of Canada to observe the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination through their voluntary contributions to the U. N. Trust Fund for South Africa and the U. N. Consolidated Educational and Training Programme for southern Africans."

(Contributions can be sent to the Treasurer of the United Nations, Room 3763, United Nations, New York.)