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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME  
FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

Statement made by the representative of Canada at the 23rd meeting of  
the Fourth Committee on 2 November 1979 1/

1. I once again take this opportunity as Chairman of the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa to introduce before the Committee item 94 entitled 'United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa' and to outline briefly the achievements of the Programme during 1978/79, as reported in document A/34/571.
2. In 1979, the Programme continued to grant individual awards to young people under colonial minority régimes in southern Africa who, because of the intolerable political situation, have fled Namibia, Southern Rhodesia and South Africa into neighbouring States and are in search of a better educational opportunity which will enable them to take part in the development of their countries when they achieve independence or majority rule. Following the independence of Territories formerly under Portuguese administration, the Programme discontinued the granting of new awards to young people from those Territories. However, existing scholarship awards have been extended until the completion of studies for which those awards were granted.
3. During the year under review, the total cash contributions received by the Programme in 1979 stood at \$US 3,449,724, compared to \$US 3,334,890 received in 1978. This represents an increase of about 11.5 per cent over 1978 contributions. It was possible for the Programme in 1979 to grant 409 new awards, compared with

1/ Distributed in accordance with a decision taken by the Fourth Committee at its 23rd meeting on 2 November 1979.

566 new awards granted in 1978. However, the total of scholarship holders in 1979 amounted to 1,560 compared with 1,542 scholarship holders in 1978, an increase of only 1 per cent over last year's total number of scholarship holders.

4. This regrettable decrease in new awards and very slight increase in the total number of scholarship holders for 1978/79 clearly indicate that the Programme faces escalating demands upon it as a result of the continuing flow of young people and the ever-increasing cost of higher education and training. In this respect, the Advisory Committee noted with great concern, at its meeting held on 19 October 1979, that out of 3,450 applications received from qualified candidates in 1978/79, it was only able to accommodate 409 candidates and that 3,047 applicants were not accepted because of the Programme's limited financial resources.

5. As a matter of policy, the Programme has placed 51 per cent of students receiving awards under the Programme in African educational institutions. This enables students to maintain better familiarity with the economic and social conditions of their own countries. Forty-nine per cent of the students were given scholarships under the Programme to study abroad in Asia, Europe and North America. This was done because of limited educational facilities in African institutions and the need for training in fields in which instruction is not readily available in Africa. Grants to this latter group included some to southern African students already living outside of Africa when it was felt that the granting of awards to individuals in Europe, Asia or North America would reduce the transportation cost and, in some cases, the cost of individual awards was less when compared with the rising cost of individual awards granted in some African institutions.

6. As examples of the rising cost of higher education and to appreciate the demands put on the Programme, it is necessary to look not only at the cost of individual awards but also at the expenditure necessary to acquire only a first degree.

7. For individual awards, the average cost of scholarships for 1978/79 was \$US 2,780. The comparable figure for 1979/80 is \$US 3,500, a 26 per cent increase, with further increases projected for the coming years. Approximate costs of scholarships to cover a complete first degree programme vary from \$US 12,000 to \$US 18,000 in African countries and upwards of that in Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. There are degree programmes available for less in a few countries such as Pakistan and India, but the ability of institutions to absorb foreign students and the range of educational programmes offered is limited in every country.

8. I hope that Committee members and donor countries will give serious consideration to these costs and the need to offer complete educational opportunities to students when deciding upon support for the Programme.

9. I am pleased to inform this Committee that in pursuance of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 33/42 of 13 December 1978, the Secretary-General appointed six new members to the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, namely, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Japan, Liberia, Nigeria, Norway and the United States.

I am convinced that the enlargement of the Advisory Committee by the addition of six new members at this critical period for southern Africa is in the best interests of the Programme, as I believe that their new ideas as well as their association with the Programme will undoubtedly enhance and improve its activities. The Advisory Committee has also extended an invitation to Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland to attend Committee meetings as observers in recognition of the assistance those States have provided to the Programme and of their keen interest in it.

10. The Committee has held consultations on an evaluation of the Programme as provided in resolution 33/42. The heavy schedule of commitments by Advisory Board members last spring made proper preparation for the evaluation mission unfeasible, but organization of the evaluation mission for 1980 has already begun. The evaluation team is expected to visit the headquarters of specialized agencies and other relevant organizations in Europe, as well as certain donor countries and a number of host countries in Africa. Given the financial resources of the Programme, the Committee will do its best to contain the administrative cost of the mission and to ensure that the administration of the Programme will be improved and strengthened by that evaluation mission.

11. Finally, I wish to thank all Governments which have made available financial contributions and facilities in their educational institutions for southern African students as well as scholarships for training in their own countries. In view of the continuing outflow of refugee students from southern Africa and the steady increase in the cost of individual awards, I believe that I should stress once again the need for continuing support of the Programme so that it can meet its financial obligations in 1980. In particular, I would like to convey my appreciation to all African countries, especially the front-line States, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the specialized agencies, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the field offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with which the Programme has maintained increased and fruitful co-operation and without which it would have been unable to operate effectively. I would also like to acknowledge the good work of the Director of the Centre Against Apartheid, the Secretary of the Advisory Committee, and the staff of the Office of Technical Co-operation.

12. I wish to announce the tabling of a draft resolution on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for southern Africa. 2/ I am pleased to advise you that this draft resolution has already been sponsored by some 30 countries, and I am sure that it will meet the unanimous approval of this Committee since the Programme has proven to be a significant and worth-while effort of the international community to assist the people of southern Africa.

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