

the Fourth Committee considered that the United Nations should not take any action which might prejudice the results of these talks. In a statement to the Committee on October 5, the Canadian Delegate noted that the situation had reached a crucial stage with the visit of Mr. Smith to London and urged that statements and actions in the United Nations should be guided by the overriding need to provide a constructive influence at this critical time. Canada, along with the vast majority of other delegations, voted on October 12 for a moderately-worded resolution which condemned any attempt on the part of the Rhodesian Government to seize independence illegally and called upon Britain to use all possible measures to prevent a unilateral declaration of independence. The Canadian representative pointed out that, at the last two meetings of the Commonwealth prime ministers, there had been unanimous agreement that Rhodesia should proceed to independence only when sufficiently representative institutions had come into existence, and that the Prime Minister of Canada had made it clear that Canada would not recognize a unilateral declaration of independence.

After approving this initial resolution, the Fourth Committee continued to debate the question of Rhodesia and the African states tabled a more comprehensive and strongly worded resolution, despite the renewed appeals of Western delegations for caution and restraint in view of the discussions then being carried on by the British Prime Minister in Salisbury. This second resolution called on Britain to release all political prisoners in Southern Rhodesia, repeal all repressive and discriminatory legislation, remove all restrictions on African political prisoners and on African political activities, suspend the constitution of 1961 and immediately call a constitutional conference. It moreover requested Britain to employ all necessary measures, "including military force", to implement these recommendations and described the situation in Southern Rhodesia as a threat to international peace and security. It was approved in plenary on November 5 by a vote of 82 in favour, to 9 against, with 18 abstentions. Aside from the timing of the resolution, many Western delegates had serious reservations about its content, including the request that Britain should take steps which it considered that it could not constitutionally carry out. Canada voted against the resolution on the grounds that the Assembly should not adopt recommendations of this nature "at a time when the British Prime Minister, having gone personally to the territory, is still pursuing vigorously the objective of attaining a constitutional settlement acceptable to the people of Rhodesia as a whole". The Canadian Delegate also shared the "reservations which have been expressed . . . concerning the advisability of the General Assembly calling for the United Kingdom to use military force while these efforts to find a peaceful solution of the problem