

unconstitutional or illegal action; and third, that none must be left in doubt of the political and economic consequences that would flow from an illegal declaration of independence. On May 6, the Security Council adopted a resolution which requested Britain to take all necessary action to prevent a unilateral declaration and to convene a constitutional conference of all political parties for the adoption of new constitutional provisions acceptable to the majority of the people of Rhodesia so that an early date might be set for independence. A Soviet amendment calling on Britain to cancel the elections was rejected.

The Smith administration unilaterally declared the independence of Rhodesia on November 11. The Security Council, at the request of both Britain and of the General Assembly, met in emergency session the next day to consider the issue. During the debate that ensued, the British Foreign Secretary said that his Government had asked the Council to convene because the attempt to establish an illegal minority regime was a matter of world concern and because the goodwill, co-operation and active support of United Nations members would be required if the various economic measures against Rhodesia were to be effective. He reiterated that Britain would only grant independence on terms acceptable to the people of Rhodesia as a whole, but did not believe that the use of force would contribute to a solution of the current problem. The Afro-Asian states that asked to participate in the debate tended to hold Britain responsible for not taking sufficient preventive measures and called for the use of force, if necessary, to put down the rebellion. The United States endorsed the stand taken by Britain, while France, although it condemned the unilateral declaration, considered that the problem was an internal British matter and said that it would abstain on any votes on the question. On November 12, the Council approved a resolution by a vote of ten in favour to none against, with France abstaining, which condemned the unilateral declaration and called upon all member states not to recognize the Smith Government or provide any assistance to it. On November 20, after a number of further meetings, the Council approved by the same vote a second resolution which determined that the situation, if continued, would constitute a threat to the peace. It called upon Britain to put down the rebellion and on "all states to refrain from any action which would assist and encourage the illegal regime and, in particular, to desist from providing it with arms, equipment and military equipment and to do their utmost in order to break all economic relations with Southern Rhodesia, including an embargo on oil and petroleum products".

Prior to this action by the Security Council, Canada had declared on November 11 that it would not recognize the Smith regime and that it would