

recognize the illegal declaration of independence and the illegal regime. Canada also strongly supports the role of the Commonwealth in this problem and especially the meetings of its Heads of Government since the Rhodesia problem is of fundamental concern to the multi-racial Commonwealth. The illegal regime and all it stands for in seeking to perpetuate political dominance of a racial minority is anathema to the Commonwealth which is based on the principle of non-discrimination and equal opportunity.

Accordingly and pursuant to the Security Council resolution of November 20, Canada took prompt action to place a complete embargo on trade with Rhodesia with very limited exceptions of a humanitarian nature and has kept the United Nations informed of our decision. Canada has also provided economic assistance designed to help Zambia in the difficulties created by the illegal situation in Rhodesia and to help Zambia achieve a further reduction in its trade with Rhodesia. We participated in a major oil airlift to Zambia earlier this year and we are providing some other economic assistance with the same aims. We fully appreciate the severe strains and tension to which Zambia is being subjected by the continuation of the illegal situation. The Canadian delegation would like to pay tribute here to the statesmanlike leadership of President Kaunda in these very difficult times for his country.

Canada has been only one of a great many governments which have cooperated in implementing the recommendation of November 20 designed to end the illegal situation as the first step to independence on the basis of majority rule. The effect of this economic sanctions campaign has been disappointingly slow. Our disappointment, however, should not blind us to the fact that some progress has been made in this campaign. Although the political effect inside Rhodesia has been limited to date, partly by the illegal regime's ability to conceal and cushion economic effects, the economy controlled by the illegal regime is being progressively damaged by the loss of imports and exports. This effect was slow in developing, partly because of delays in full implementation of various embargoes. My Government has been concerned to note also that there are a number of gaps and evasions in the trade bans imposed by various governments. The Commonwealth Heads of Government agreed in London last month that though sanctions had undoubtedly depressed the Rhodesian economy they were unlikely at their present level to achieve the desired political objectives within an acceptable period of time. Accordingly, the Heads of Government were generally agreed on the need for stronger and mandatory economic sanctions under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. This agreement was recorded in the Communique of the meeting which is therefore relevant to our discussions.