

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, we are doing that. There should be no argument on this score, except with those who wish to use these relations to destroy the Federal Government's responsibility for foreign affairs, and that we do not accept.

Canada is a free country and its people govern themselves. Canadians in Quebec and elsewhere in Canada have the right to exercise fully their political rights in federal and provincial elections. Self-determination is no new discovery for us.

We do not need to have it offered to us. To assert the contrary is an insult to those who discharge their democratic privileges as Canadian voters and to those who serve their country in this House or in provincial legislatures.

To those who would set us free, we answer : "We are free". To those who would disunite us, we answer : "We remain united, in a federal system which is being brought into line with the requirements of our time and of our origins and history". On April 19, 1960, the gallant and illustrious head of another state, speaking in Ottawa, had this to say; I quote from his speech :

"And now, how do you Canadians appear to us ? Materially, a new country, of vast size, mighty resources, inhabited by a hard-working and enterprising people. Politically, a state which has found the means to unite two societies, very different in origin, language and religion; which exercises independence under the British Crown and forms part of the Commonwealth : which is forging a national character even though spread out over three thousand miles alongside a very powerful federation; a solid and stable state."

Mr. Speaker, I agree with those words of General de Gaulle in 1960. I disagree with his words in November 1967.

Rhodesia

To a question, on November 14, whether Canada contemplated any initiative to narrow the gap between the British Government and Mr. Smith's Government in Rhodesia, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, replied :

Mr. Speaker, if the Canadian Government were in a position to further this matter outside the context of the United Nations, where this problem presently resides, . . . the Government would be only too anxious to do all it could consistent with its declared policy — a policy which is supported by all the Commonwealth governments.

However, the matter is now before the United Nations. The Secretary-General will shortly be making a report on the operation of sanctions, and I think until that report has been made it would not be prudent to go any further at this moment.