

of the present electorate, it is anticipated that effective participation in the electoral process by a substantial majority of the population will be achieved within the next decade. The real issue is not whether Southern Rhodesia is moving in the right direction, but whether it is moving fast enough.

The Assembly has before it a report of the Seventeen Member Committee which expresses the view of the majority of that body that the trend of constitutional development is not satisfactory and advances a number of drastic recommendations which it believes should be given immediate effect.

The first question which the Committee considered in its discussion of Southern Rhodesia was whether or not the territory is self-governing. The British Government has pointed out, patiently and repeatedly, that Southern Rhodesia has been a self-governing colony since 1923 and that Britain cannot interfere in its internal affairs or legislate for it without the consent of the Southern Rhodesian Government. The Special Committee, on the other hand, has concluded, and the Assembly will be asked to support its conclusion, that because the majority of the people are not yet included in the franchise, Southern Rhodesia has not attained a full measure of self-government.

It seems to my Delegation that the reality behind these two contradictory positions has an important bearing on the question of whether the Assembly can take any constructive action at this time. In the first place, since the present government of Southern Rhodesia has full control of its internal affairs, the Assembly must realize that the political changes which it desires can be brought about only with the cooperation of that government.