

the prospect for immediate improvement in the situation is concerned. There are very great differences of view, for instance, between ourselves and other Western countries and the Soviet Union, though I believe the Soviet Union is as anxious to bring this war to an end as we are. But they feel that this cannot be done unless the United States stops its bombing and fighting and begins to remove its troops. They say that at that time there will be the right kind of reaction from the North. The United States feels it should not be asked to take those steps unless there is some assurance that they will result in negotiation and peace. So there does not seem to be much likelihood of a quick settlement.

The question of Rhodesia was discussed by previous speakers. I will try to deal with some of the points that have been raised. I think the prime ministers' conference of a year ago was correct in discussing this question . . . . It seems to me that if the Government immediately concerned with the problem of Rhodesia, which is the United Kingdom because it has still the immediate responsibility, brought the question before the prime ministers' conference, and the other members of the conference were anxious to discuss it—certainly the Africans were, and insisted on a discussion—we would have been defaulting on our responsibility had we said: No, this is not a matter we should discuss. This is especially so in view of the fact that the prime ministers' conference, quite rightly, discussed the question of South Africa on a previous occasion. Anyway, the question of Rhodesia was discussed. The United Kingdom, which admitted its immediate responsibility, asked for the views of other members of the Commonwealth as to how the question could best be settled in a way which would protect the interests of the majority of the people.

There were those at the meeting last January who were demanding military intervention at once, that force be used to put down the illegal regime. It was argued that, if the illegal regime had been black and the majority had been white, there would not have been any delay by the United Kingdom or anybody else concerned in using force. There was a great deal of suspicion that there was no sincerity on the part of certain members of the Commonwealth in their desire to see that the rights of the majority—who number about 4 million to 200,000—were protected and respected.

Before that time, the United Kingdom Government had laid down six points which governed its policy in Rhodesia. These have been the basis of its policy. Our Government has supported those points. We made them clear to the House of Commons last spring. We continue to support those points. They provide for unimpeded progress toward the establishment in Rhodesia of a government which will represent the majority of the people on non-racial lines.

It was felt by the United Kingdom that the application of voluntary sanctions might be effective. We were told that they were likely to be effective. The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom was optimistic at the conference in Lagos.