

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(SIXTEENTH SESSION - RESUMED)

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Statement by W. H. Barton, Charge d'Affaires a.i.,  
in Plenary Session of the General Assembly, on June  
19, 1962.

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Southern Rhodesia

Mr. President:

Before expressing the position of the Canadian Government on the matter before us today, I should like to acknowledge the diligence and vigour with which the Special Committee of Seventeen has been carrying out the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly. It is a particular pleasure to my Delegation to recognize the service of the Chairman, Ambassador Jha, in view of his forthcoming appointment as High Commissioner for India in Canada.

I think that all members of this Assembly agree that the political situation in Southern Rhodesia is an extremely difficult one. At a time when the principles of democratic freedom have been adopted throughout most of Africa, a minority of 200,000 obviously cannot expect to exclude a majority of two and one-quarter million people indefinitely from participating in the political life of the country. Moreover, we do not believe that the present leaders of Southern Rhodesia intend to do so. Even under the 1961 constitution, accepted by a two-to-one majority