

in the world.

For my own part, I feel that the black leaders in Rhodesia have a great responsibility to recognize that they now have the opportunity to gain the support of the vast majority of the developed countries -- including Canada, including the United States -- by moving towards a rational transition, by working for a change that can be brought about with a minimum of disruption and with no bloodshed -- even though that may be an unrealistic expectation -- but nevertheless to work for the smoothest possible kind of change. And so the message that I have been conveying through all diplomatic and other channels that are open to us to the black leaders is to take to heart this important lesson and to demonstrate that they have the maturity and the competence to bring about this desirable change, which we and so many other countries support in the United Nations, in an amicable way.

...I am sure some of you who have a special interest will wonder whether or not any requests or proposals have yet come to us as to the kind of role that Canada might play during the transitional period. The fact is that, other than some quite general and, I may say, vague suggestions or comments, nothing has yet emerged of a specific nature for consideration by the Government of Canada. There has been reference, from time to time, to the possibility of the establishment of a special fund. And, incidentally, I should say in passing that much of the publicity in this regard has, I think, been somewhat off the mark, in that there is no suggestion that this fund, if it ever develops, will be used to finance the exodus of white Rhodesians. It is thought of more as a stabilizing fund for the preservation of the economic and political climate in the country, which, in fact, will encourage both the white Rhodesians and the black Rhodesians to settle any differences and to go on living amicably together. But I just mention that because there has been quite a bit of misunderstanding about it.

The second point is, of course, that there has been a suggestion that the Commonwealth might well have a role to play. And you may have noted that in my public comments on this question I have said simply that the principle is one with which none of us can really argue but that we should want to be very clear what kind of position a Commonwealth force, be it civilian or military, might be called upon to exercise in a Rhodesian situation in a transitional period. Certainly I should not wish, nor, I think, would any Canadian wish, to see Canadian forces, for example, used as a buffer between blacks and whites, or to see us once again thrust into a peacekeeping role between people who are genuinely, indeed, anxious to be literally at each other's throats. But, nevertheless, if there is a possibility