

THE PRESS: Sir, I have a question in relation to the Americans. Three areas of the review, NORAD NATO in recognition of Red China touch on aspects of American foreign policy. I wonder if you have had any hint of some kind of opposition from American authorities, or whether you have had any contact and let them know about these developments?

MR. SHARP: Yes, I took the opportunity when I met Dean Rusk in Washington, shortly after my appointment, on my visit to New York, to acquaint him with our plans to review these matters and quite explicitly so that there would be no misunderstanding, and I think the United States Government understands why we are doing it, and they naturally want to know what it is all about because our joint interests are very much involved, but we have never hesitated to let the Americans know what we have in mind.

THE PRESS: Mr. Sharp, is the Canadian Government resisting the Commonwealth Prime Minister's Conference which would deal with Rhodesia, and if so, why?

MR. SHARP: No, we are not. We are quite happy to attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' meeting which is being talked about for the fall. We were asked whether we would like to have the meetings here and after discussing it, the Prime Minister and I both agreed, that because of the peculiar circumstances of holding a meeting so shortly after either this Government is returned, or there is a new government, we would not be able to do justice to such a conference or make the necessary preparations. So, we informed the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Mr. Arnold Smith, that we thought that it would be better if the meeting could be held elsewhere on this occasion.

THE PRESS: Were the overtures from the Commonwealth Secretary as such?

MR. SHARP: He asked us whether we would like to. He did not press us, he just asked us whether we would like to have the meeting here in Canada and I gather that some members of the Commonwealth would be in favour, not all, but some.