

now embraces not only elements of constitutional and legal principles inherited from the British, but also the teachings of Ghandi and Nehru and Julius Nyerere. A few years ago, because of the unanimous abhorrence of racial discrimination by all the other Commonwealth members, South Africa was allowed or forced to withdraw from the Commonwealth because of her policy of apartheid and her denial of racial equality.

Last July the Commonwealth Prime Ministers applied these principles to the constitutionally different and politically very explosive situation in Southern Rhodesia, a territory that is not independent, but is internally self-governing. Here again agreement was by no means easy to reach, nor the decision at all obvious or inevitable.

Some people thought that the situation in Southern Rhodesia should not be discussed at a Commonwealth meeting on the grounds it was in some sense the internal affair of a member country, that is Britain itself. Personally this argument, applied to a dependent territory, has never seemed to me very convincing, particularly so in this case since at the United Nations and elsewhere Britain understandably disclaims responsibility for the racial policy of the government of Southern Rhodesia on the grounds that that territory is self-governing in internal matters. In any case all the Prime Ministers agreed that it should be discussed, and it certainly was.

A more plausible consideration was the danger that discussion of the racial policies and political situation in Southern