

7. In the Federation this task is extremely difficult and any action proposed to this Assembly should be judged on the basis of whether it will facilitate the granting of independence to the people concerned. The British Government is at this moment engaged in very important negotiations to institute a new constitution for Northern Rhodesia and to plan the future relationship between Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia and Southern Rhodesia. My Delegation believes that nothing should be done here which might prejudice a successful outcome to these negotiations.

8. We have been told by the British delegate that his Government feels that on grounds of principle and fact it would be wrong for this Assembly to seek to give directions to the Special Committee on Colonialism as the draft resolution proposes. In view of the full cooperation which it has given to the United Nations in colonial matters, the Committee should give proper weight to the objections he has raised.

9. In addition to its unusual constitutional position, there are other reasons why Southern Rhodesia's special case should be considered with care and understanding by the United Nations. Its leaders appear to us to be making a genuine effort to establish a multi-racial state in Africa in which no man will be judged by the colour of his skin and in which merit alone will decide a man's position in society. Southern Rhodesia is unlike most of the African states which have recently become independent in that it contains a large white population not consisting of expatriates but of men and women who regard Southern Rhodesia as their native land. It is in their own interest to develop a full working partnership based on racial equality with the African majority.