

1. Will the action called for by the terms of the resolution improve the situation of all the peoples of Southern Rhodesia?

2. Can the action proposed in the resolution be put into effect?

I am sure it is evident from what I have said that in our opinion the resolution in Document A/L.385 does not fulfil either of these requirements.

What, then, can we do? We think that the most useful action that this Assembly might take at this time would be to support the present efforts of the British Government to bring about a solution to the political problems of the constituent territories of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, which are closely inter-related.

The British Government, with the overwhelming support of the British people, has played an honourable and constructive role in bringing to full independence over 500 million people in the past fifteen years. The governments of all her former dependencies maintain close and friendly relations with her. With its fine record and experience in resolving difficult colonial problems the British Government merits the confidence of the Assembly in solving those which remain.

The United Kingdom is still responsible for 42 of the 55-odd non-self-governing territories in which the United Nations is interested, and its full cooperation is needed if this Assembly is to play a constructive part in their advance to independence. It would be most unfortunate if, by passing a resolution making impossible demands on the United Kingdom, the Assembly should jeopardize the basis of this cooperation.