

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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SOUTHERN RHODESIA

Text of Statement to be made in the Fourth Committee, by the Canadian Representative, Mr. Gerard Pelletier, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, on Tuesday, October 10, 1967.

The Canadian delegation has already congratulated you, Sir, on your election. We also wish to extend congratulations on their unanimous election to Mr. Braithwaite whose nomination for Vice-Chairman we had the pleasure of supporting, and to Mr. Dashtseren, our Rapporteur. The Fourth Committee is fortunate in its Bureau. My delegation also welcomes Ambassador Djermaakoye our new Under-Secretary.

Mr. Chairman, in the United Nations, as well as in meetings of the Commonwealth, my Government has strongly upheld the position that it is inadmissible that a society should be organized on a system of racial discrimination under which a minority of whites exercise political and economic control over the vast majority of people. For a number of years now the United Nations has considered the difficult problem of how to ensure that Rhodesia will progress to independence on the basis of equality for all its inhabitants. It has been impossible so far to attain this goal because of the intransigent opposition of the white minority which has attempted to shelter behind the barricade of its illegal declaration of independence. The international community has more than once condemned the action of the Salisbury regime in unilaterally declaring independence and no government has recognized that independence. The concern of the United Nations with the situation has been shown by the priority accorded to the item on Rhodesia at sessions of this Assembly, by the numerous resolutions approved by it and by the historic decisions of the Security Council culminating in the determination by the Council that the situation in Rhodesia constitutes a threat to international peace and security.