



CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE No. 33

October 15, 1965

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New York
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Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson has informed Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith that Canada would join other members of the Commonwealth in refusing to recognize a unilateral declaration of independence by Rhodesia, and would also join in "certain practical measures that would inevitably follow." Mr. Pearson's message was delivered to Mr. Smith in Salisbury yesterday. The text follows:

"I am naturally very disturbed to learn of the breakdown in the discussions between you and the British Government, a result which is a matter rightly and inevitably of Commonwealth concern. I would again urge you and your colleagues to think most carefully about the very grave consequences involved in a unilateral declaration of independence.

"Commonwealth Heads of Government have twice declared that they were irrevocably opposed to any unilateral declaration of independence by the Rhodesian Government, an action which can only be considered by them as illegal. I share sincerely the views held by other Commonwealth leaders that independence for Rhodesia should only be recognized if based on the principle of majority rule. Any other course will inevitably have consequences which can only be very unhappy for your country. You should know that Canada would join the other members of the Commonwealth in refusing to recognize a unilateral declaration of independence and would also join in certain practical measures that would inevitably follow.

"If no such unilateral declaration of independence is made, Canada, will, of course, continue to do what it can to help in the search for a satisfactory solution to the problems that face your country."