

single state, and the relation between that and the fact that our foreign policy and all its projections must also reflect our interest in French-speaking as well as English-speaking countries.

Will you be talking to the people of the countries that you visit about the British arms sales to South Africa?

Oh, inevitably. I'm sure that it will be probably the first point of discussion with their Foreign Ministers and other officials.

Do you think the Commonwealth Committee will continue to operate?

I can't be very optimistic at the present time. The other day when Nigeria indicated that it didn't intend to be there, I said that we were not withdrawing, but the canvass that has been made of the other countries doesn't indicate very much enthusiasm for going ahead. As yet we haven't abandoned hope, but I can't be very optimistic at the present time. I think this is a great pity because this committee might have been able to look not just at that particular question of arms sales by Britain or any other country--other countries are supplying arms too--but, not only at that question, but what happens in Southern Africa. You know, after all, suppose the British don't send any arms to South Africa. The problem is still there.

Right.

And as our Prime Minister said one day in Singapore, surely it's in everyone's interest to avoid creating another Viet Nam in Southern Africa. Now this is a common interest we all have, as Commonwealth countries. We're a microcosm of the world, and the great advantage of the Commonwealth is that we can sit down and talk one to another without having our speeches reproduced. You know, this is what it's all about, and if we can't deal with those issues, the Commonwealth doesn't have the kind of meaning that we think it should have. So this committee could have, we believe, and perhaps still can perform some function, but the problem is still there.

And it won't go away?

It won't go away. And therefore if we can't sit down and talk rationally about that problem, then we're, you know, we're missing a great opportunity.

By and large, Mr. Sharp, do you think that Canada's role in international affairs will increase or remain the same?