

the isolation of all Rhodesians from the outside world, and the distortion of Rhodesian economic and social development had led the British authorities to believe that there were serious disadvantages to the perpetuation of the *status quo*. These were among the considerations behind the decision of the British Government to make these proposals, which they hope may establish a new point of departure for Rhodesia's political development.

We expect that there will be strong misgivings on the part of many African governments over the proposals. It is entirely understandable that they should wish all Africans in Rhodesia to have the same advantages which they themselves have obtained through independence on the basis of majority rule. Canada is completely in accord with the desire of Africans to achieve the abolition of all forms of racial discrimination throughout Africa and the realization of full political rights for all African peoples, a desire we and they have repeatedly expressed in the United Nations and at Commonwealth meetings.

The Commonwealth has not been successful in its attempts to solve the Rhodesian problem. In my view this does not mean that the Commonwealth should be considered of lessening importance. In its brief existence as a multi-racial association, it has contributed greatly to the adjustments required by the accession to independence of its members from Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. Canada is confident that the Commonwealth can continue to perform a vital role in the Seventies.

ASSESSMENT OF VIEWS

The proposals envisage seeking the views of the people of Rhodesia. It is entirely right that this should be so. This is obviously a vital element in the achievement of any settlement. The provision for a commission appointed by Britain represents a serious attempt to test the opinion of Rhodesian Africans. Nevertheless, there are inherent complications. The vast majority of the people have been given little opportunity in the past to express their political will, certainly not on complicated constitutional questions. There are definite physical limitations on the ability of the commission to consult everyone. Another cause of concern is the state of emergency which apparently will prevail during the commission's deliberations. African nationalist parties (such as have come to power elsewhere), notably ZAPU and ZANU, will, it appears, continue to be unable to operate, and their leaders will be prevented from influencing public opinion during the consultations.

I am sure that I speak for all Members of this House when I say that we hope that notwithstanding these limitations the commission will be able to ascertain the views of the Rhodesian people and, in

particular, the African population as to the acceptability to them of the proposed agreement. I feel confident that men of the integrity of those nominated to be chairman and vice-chairmen will report not only the views they hear but also on the adequacy of the procedures for ascertaining those views.

As Canadians we may view the proposals as falling short of what is desirable but we cannot substitute our judgement for the judgement of the Rhodesian people themselves as to whether they prefer to go on as at present or to accept the settlement that has been proposed.

Whatever happens Canada will not cease to be concerned with the attainment of full democracy and social justice in Rhodesia.

TRADE FAIR IN PEKING

Canadian products will be shown in China for the first time at a trade fair for Canadian goods only in Peking from August 21 to September 2, 1972. Covering 140,000 square feet of floor-space and including a broad range of industrial equipment and products, it will be the largest Canadian industrial show ever undertaken. It will be sponsored by the federal Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

An exploratory team recently returned from the People's Republic of China, where discussions were held with officials of the seven state corporations involved in import/export trade. These talks established that there was an increasing demand in China for capital goods, many of which can be obtained in Canada, which will form the nucleus of the presentation at the fair to introduce Canada as an internationally-competitive source of manufactured goods.

Chinese imports of chemicals, metals and minerals, wood-products, and of transportation, construction, machinery and electrical-power equipment, are increasing steadily. Imports of these products from non-Communist countries in 1969 approached \$500 million (U.S.).

During the visit to Peking last June of the Canadian economic mission led by Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, officials of the Chinese Government indicated that they would look to Canada as a source of import requirements. Agreement was reached between Chinese and Canadian officials at that time to stage a Canadian fair in 1972. Chinese Government officials consider that a Canadian fair in Peking is the next logical step in the expansion of economic contacts with the People's Republic of China. It will serve to introduce Canadian business to Chinese authorities and to demonstrate the range and quality of Canadian manufactured goods. It will also provide an opportunity for Canadian suppliers to lay the foundation for the longer term development of export markets in China.