

in the United Nations. They have taken a close interest in its possibilities for peace and have rapidly become experienced in the collective diplomacy and in the development of world-wide contacts which the organization affords. Political interests demand effective means of diplomatic consultation for Commonwealth purposes also.

In the course of a few years, Canada has assisted in the United Nations operation in the Congo and is now taking part in the "oil-lift" to Zambia, necessitated by the Rhodesian situation. We have accepted involvement in operations taking place in Africa which have world-wide political significance. The Canadian interest in contemporary Africa is many-sided and permanent.

Rhodesia

In the concluding section of my remarks, I shall make some comments on the Rhodesian situation. It occupies a central position in our consideration of Canada and Africa. It is an African crisis, a Commonwealth crisis, and could easily develop into a major world crisis. It has all the elements of fundamental importance, in a much wider sense, for many parts of Africa - race relations, transition from colonial to independent status, economic, educational and political problems.

I shall assume that you know from the fairly detailed accounts which have appeared in the press what we have done since the Smith Government in Rhodesia issued its illegal declaration of independence in November. We now have a total ban on Rhodesian imports and exports, with certain very limited exceptions. We have acted with Britain and other nations to exert sufficient economic pressure on the supporters of the Smith Government to bring about a return to constitutional government.

We opposed the unilateral declaration of independence because it was designed to perpetuate a system of racial inequality and discrimination wholly inconsistent with Canadian ideals. It was also wholly inconsistent with the basic principle of the new multi-racial Commonwealth.

Canada opposed the illegal declaration because we believed that Rhodesia should not become independent on the basis of a constitution which had been drawn up in 1961, unless that constitution were to be changed in a number of ways. In theory, this constitution could eventually produce majority rule in the country when sufficient Africans reached the required property and educational level to obtain the franchise for election to 50 out of the 65 seats in the Rhodesian Legislative Assembly. In fact, the educational and property qualifications are very high in terms of conditions in Rhodesia and very few Africans can qualify to vote for these 50 seats.

Mr. Smith and his followers have made it plain that they do not expect Africans to become the majority of the electorate in their lifetime. In other words, they wish to see perpetuated a system of racial inequality whereby one-sixteenth of the population exercises effective political power over the remaining fifteen-sixteenths of the population.