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Rhodesia

The following are excerpts from a Press Conference held by Canadian Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson in Ottawa on December 20, 1965.

"The Canadian Government decided today to participate in an airlift of oil supplies to Zambia by providing the services of four RCAF Hercules 130 Aircraft. This airlift has been established following the British decision to place an embargo on oil and oil products going to Rhodesia.

Canadian Participation in the airlift is in response to an urgent request from President Kaunda of Zambia which was received on December 19. This request was supported by the British Prime Minister in his discussion with Mr. Pearson and his colleagues on December 19."

"The Canadian Government decided today to place an embargo on the export of oil and oil products from Canada to Rhodesia. This measure is pursuant to the resolution of November 20 of the United Nations Security Council which recommended severance of economic ties with Rhodesia under the present illegal regime and referred specifically to an oil embargo. Canada does not normally export oil and oil products to Rhodesia. The ban is therefore primarily designed to prevent any future shipments resulting from oil embargo measures carried out by other countries and, in particular, from the British ban announced on December 17."

"In the Canadian Government's view, the current crisis in Rhodesia is having an adverse effect on the Commonwealth, on race relations and stability in Africa and on Western relations with Africa. It is also in the interests of the people of Rhodesia as a whole that this seriously disturbing situation should be swiftly concluded by economic means."

The Prime Minister added that details of routes, costs and logistic support for the airlift were under study at present, as were questions of what other items in addition to oil would be needed and whether Zambian products would be shipped out by air.

