

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT

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SOUTHERN RHODESIA

Text of Statement to be made in the Fourth Committee by the Canadian Representative, Mr. Gordon E. Cox, on October 27, 1967, explaining the Canadian Vote on the Resolution on Southern Rhodesia(A/C.4/L870/Rev.1).

The Canadian delegation wishes to make a brief explanation of vote on the resolution on Southern Rhodesia contained in Document A/C.4/L.870/Rev.1.

We are in agreement with the main objectives of the resolution and with many of its parts, but it will be apparent to members of the Committee from the statement made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada in the General Debate and from our statement in this Committee in the debate on Rhodesia that we have serious reservations about the references to the use of force in operative paragraphs 6 and 7. Moreover this resolution contains implicitly or explicitly directions to the Security Council on what its next steps should be and as a member of the Council we would not wish to pre-judge the position of the Canadian delegation when the Security Council takes up again the question of Southern Rhodesia. My delegation expects that when it next approaches the question the Security Council will consider what further measures should be adopted to contribute further to the aims we all share.

In general comment on the question we believe that to conclude after a relatively short period that peaceful or non-violent measures are ineffective would not be a service to the United Nations and would bring comfort to the illegal regime in Rhodesia and that is certainly not our intention. That regime's main aim has been to try to convince Britain and the world at large that sanctions have made no impact on the situation. But when the leaders of the regime speak of continuing trade and a flourishing economy, they purposely ignore the damage done already to their tobacco and sugar industries and the added economic strain of the oil embargo.

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Their aim is so to convince the world community of the ineffectiveness of sanctions that these measures will be rescinded or otherwise fall into disuse.

We consider that so far the economic sanctions provisions of the Charter have not been fully employed and we believe that the impact of existing and additional measures should bring increasing pressure to bear on the illegal regime. It is our view that the provisions of Article 41 of the Charter are important in the broad perspective of the United Nations capacity for peaceful action to regulate disputes, and taking into account the fact that other measures will continue to be available it is in our view desirable that economic sanctions should be given adequate opportunity to do their work.

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