

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(EIGHTEENTH SESSION)

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STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MR. LEO CADIEUX,
CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE ON THE FOURTH COMMITTEE
ON THE QUESTION OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA.
OCTOBER 11, 1963.

Mr. Chairman:

I have listened with great interest and close attention to the various statements made in this Committee concerning Southern Rhodesia and I have also examined closely the report of the Special Committee on this difficult and complex problem.

In its approach to problems of this nature my government has taken the basic position that human rights and fundamental freedoms should be respected throughout the world. We believe in a national right of self-determination and freedom of the individual from discrimination on grounds of race, colour, religion or political belief. We wish to promote the evolution of all dependent peoples who look forward to the attainment of self-government and independence. We look forward to a peaceful and orderly transition to a society in which all of the population will enjoy equal rights in economic, social and political life. We realize that each territory has its own special problems which must be taken into account in satisfying the aspirations of the inhabitants.

It is in the light of this basic approach that we have considered the situation in Southern Rhodesia. Mr. Chairman, previously in the United Nations my Delegation has stated that at a time when the principles of representative democracy have been accepted throughout most of Africa a minority of a little over 200,000 cannot expect for long to exclude a majority of $3\frac{1}{2}$ million people from participating fully in the political, economic and social life of the country. We sympathize with the

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

1. On 10/10/54...

2. The following...

3. It is recommended...

4. The attached report...

5. The above information...

6. It is noted that...

7. The results of the...

8. The data indicates...

9. The findings are...

10. The report is...

aspirations of the Africans in Southern Rhodesia for rapid advancement and with their desire to exercise political responsibility in the same manner and on the same terms as the people of neighbouring countries which are independent or shortly to become so. We would hope that all groups concerned in Southern Rhodesia could agree on an orderly programme of constitutional development under which the Africans would acquire such political responsibility together with increasing economic, educational and social opportunities.

Mr. Chairman, in view of the serious nature of the problem the General Assembly has in previous resolutions urged the United Kingdom to take certain courses of action. We agree that the question facing us is difficult and complicated. It must be handled with caution, skill and patience. An added factor is that the United Kingdom is engaged in delicate negotiations in connection with the dissolution of the Federation and the advancement to independence of Northern Rhodesia and Nyassaland. In these circumstances we consider that at this stage the best prospect for progress is through informal and private methods of consultation and that the criterion which should be applied to draft resolutions in the United Nations General Assembly at this time is whether or not they facilitate this process.

As members of the Commonwealth we are concerned that the final solution should be in keeping with the principles of freedom and democracy on which the Commonwealth is based. We are confident that the influence of the United Kingdom will be directed to this end. At the same time there is a heavy responsibility, particularly on the Government but also for the people of Southern Rhodesia, both white and black to speed the process of peaceful transition to majority rule by facilitating agreement on the compromises which will certainly be necessary.

The question is difficult and our concern should be to decide what is the best way to achieve constructive results in improving the situation of all the peoples in Southern Rhodesia. We have and are approaching resolutions submitted to this Committee in the light of the considerations which I have outlined.

