

CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SOUTHERN RHODESIA

Text of statement issued in Ottawa  
Thursday, November 11, 1965, by  
the Canadian Prime Minister, Rt. Hon.  
Lester B. Pearson

"I have learned with deep disappointment and regret of the decision of the Government of Rhodesia to declare its independence. This action has been taken in the face of numerous warnings by the British, Canadian and other Governments. Prime Minister Wilson has announced that this is an unconstitutional act, amounting in fact to rebellion.

"At and after the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference of July 1964, I made it plain that Canada would not recognize a unilateral declaration of independence by the Rhodesian Government. I now confirm that we do not recognize either the unilateral declaration of independence by the government of Mr. Smith in Rhodesia or the independent state of Rhodesia, which he claims now exists, or the Smith Government itself in Rhodesia. In view of the action of Mr. Smith's Government we are withdrawing the Canadian Trade Commissioner in Salisbury. We are recommending immediately to the Governor-in-Council the withdrawal of the preferential tariff treatment Rhodesian goods have enjoyed in Canada. Imports from Rhodesia will no longer be accorded the British preferential tariff, nor will they be entitled to the rates in the most-favoured-nation tariff. Instead they will be subject to the much higher rates in the general tariff. We are also bringing into effect immediately a complete arms embargo. The export of all arms, military equipment and ammunition to Rhodesia will be banned and there will be no new aid and financing agreements.



"The situation which has arisen in Rhodesia is particularly serious because of its potentially divisive effect on the Commonwealth, and on race relations which are so important to cooperation and development in Africa. We are engaged in continuing and close consultations with African and other Commonwealth Governments about the consequences of this most regrettable Rhodesian action.

"The action of Mr. Smith's Government is in defiance of unanimous Commonwealth opinion expressed at the meetings of Commonwealth Heads of Government in 1964 and 1965. The United Nations General Assembly has also expressed clearly its opposition to such a unilateral declaration of independence. Canadian measures I have described which reflect our disapproval of the Rhodesian decision are therefore also in accord with Commonwealth and world opinion."

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