

# THIS IS RHODESIA

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## Independent Rhodesia

"We have struck a blow for the preservation of justice, civilization, and Christianity, and in the spirit of this belief we have this day assumed our sovereign independence. God bless you all."

With these solemn words, Prime Minister Ian Douglas Smith, of Rhodesia, ended an historic broadcast on 11th November, 1965. The nation—and indeed, the whole world—now knew that Rhodesia no longer recognized any outside suzerainty; that a little country was prepared, if necessary, to defend its rightful heritage to its utmost ability.

The Prime Minister's historic broadcast marked the end of a twilight of uncertainty, doubt, and at times, deep frustration. While Rhodesians steeled themselves to face up to whatever retribution other people might seek to visit upon them, they did so with a great surge of hope, determination—and relief.

All the equivocation, deceit and procrastination were now over. It was like coming out of a dark cave into the clean, free sunlight. They would—and if necessary they will—pay any price.

It was Prime Minister Smith who read the Declaration of Independence. It was Prime Minister Harold Wilson and his colleagues who rendered this inevitable. They left Rhodesia no other choice.

The story really begins in 1923—more than 40 years ago—when Rhodesia became a self-governing Colony. From that date, there was established an unblemished record of progress, stability, justice and orderly government. Standards already second to none on the continent of Africa were raised for all Rhodesians. Medical services, schools, railways, roads, churches, fine cities, housing, factories, technical and agricultural colleges—a University—all the things that go to make the modern progressive state; the proud legacy of 42 years of self-rule. Rhodesia has its faults and has made mistakes. But on balance it is proud of its achievements.

### Savage Wilderness

When the Pioneers first arrived in the latter part of the last century, thrusting through malarial bush in ox waggons, they found a savage, untamed wilderness. Sickiness, tribal war and slavery—along with incredibly primitive ignorance—were the lot of the comparative handful of tribesmen they encountered. The estimated African population of that time was about 300,000 at most. Because of the hospitals, doctors and nursing staff introduced by those first white Rhodesians, and the march of civilization, the African population today has grown

to nearly 4,000,000, of which 2,000,000 are children—tribute in itself to the country's medical advance.

A state was established that became the envy of other countries in Africa. None could match Rhodesia's achievements in social services, economic expansion and constant, orderly government.

Throughout this whole period, its citizens remained dedicated to the British way of life. They based everything on the principles of fair play, tolerance and opportunity for all, and they remained unswervingly loyal to Britain; their deep affection for the Crown remained unsurpassed.

### Federation Established

In 1953, the now defunct Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland was established. Of the three territories involved, Rhodesia was the only one, by virtue of its self-ruling status, to put the matter squarely to the people in a referendum. The answer was "Yes" and thenceforth Rhodesia put all her efforts into making a success of Federation. Economically, tremendous strides were made.

The story is well known that in 1963, the British Government rejected its own creation and without the concurrence of either the Rhodesian Government or the overall Federal Government, dissolved the Federation. Meanwhile, in 1961, the Rhodesian people accepted, by referendum, a new Constitution which conferred independence "within the Federal framework".

The 1961 Constitution was the result of round table talks between all parties and all races, presided over by Britain's then Commonwealth Secretary, Mr. Duncan Sandys. African nationalists accepted it to a man . . . and within days repudiated it to a man. It is emphasized that, whatever may now be said, the 1961 Constitution was sold to Rhodesia as conferring independence subject to Federal ties.

When Britain unilaterally dissolved the Federation, it became apparent that in her eyes, the independence Rhodesia had been granted "within the Federal framework" had largely evaporated—but at the same time, all the concessions and agreements Rhodesia had made to achieve this non-existent independence, were still binding. In short, it had been misled into making extraordinarily generous concessions—for nothing.

While Rhodesia continued scrupulously to observe the 1961 Constitution in the belief that it was the basis for sovereign independence, the British Government was clearly determined to use the new situation as a means of swiftly promoting so-called majority rule.



It took two years of intensive negotiation and finally something close to an ultimatum, to wring this out of the British Government. The 1961 concessions were not enough. The 1961 Constitution was no longer considered a fair basis for independence.

The fundamental difference between the Rhodesian and British Governments was this. Rhodesians believe that the reins of government should be held in responsible hands. The colour of those hands is immaterial. The majority of those capable of exercising a vote, and thus being responsible for government are Europeans by virtue of their culture and heritage. In time a greater proportion of the population will become eligible to vote and therefore exercise an increasing and, it is hoped, responsible influence. The British Government on the other hand believe in what they euphemistically term "majority rule", by which they mean black rule, which is blatant racialism. The fact that in several previous exercises of this kind the one-man-one-vote principle in Africa has led to one election, one party, one dictator—is apparently of no consequence.

When the London talks broke down in October, 1965, the Prime Minister, Mr. Ian Smith, told a Press Conference: "The British Government has categorically stated that it no longer believes that the 1961 Constitution is an appropriate basis for independence. This is contrary to everything we have been led to believe in the past."

This disclosure, flashed back from London to Rhodesia, was taken as a clear indication by most Rhodesians that the British Government was planning to double-cross Mr. Smith, just as it had Sir Roy Welensky, the Federal Prime Minister.

During the talks Mr. Smith had offered the British Government his full acceptance of the principles of unimpeded progress towards majority rule as enshrined in the 1961 Constitution. He offered a means of providing the frequently referred to "blocking third" against amendment of the entrenched clauses in the Constitution with an Upper House comprised entirely of Africans. As the first representative of a country which has honoured every guarantee and commitment it had ever entered into, he was prepared to offer guarantees ensuring that there would be no tampering with the constitution.

But as Mr. Smith himself said at his press conference: "Every time we moved towards them (the British) they moved further away from us." It is clear that the only concessions offered came from the Rhodesian Prime Minister.

### Expressions of Sympathy

But if Mr. Smith failed to make headway with the British Government he certainly succeeded with the British people. Expressions of sympathy and goodwill poured into Rhodesia House from all over the United Kingdom.

Back in Salisbury Mr. Smith received a further appeal from Mr. Wilson; Rhodesia's Prime Minister responded with the offer of a solemn treaty guaranteeing the inviolability of the Constitution. Then came Mr. Wilson's dramatic announcement that he would fly to Rhodesia.

Rhodesians began to ask themselves: "Is he in earnest this time, at last? Surely he can't still be stalling . . . or can he?" He could! Mr. Wilson and his Commonwealth

Relations Secretary, Mr. Arthur Bottomley, arrived with an impressive corps of 50 British civil servants.

Hopefully, Rhodesians began to wonder if this enormous retinue meant that in addition to top level talks, there would be liaison at all levels in the process of working out the complicated details of independence.

Mr. Wilson embarked on talks with individuals and organizations. Of those whom he chose or agreed to see, the majority had never received a single vote from the people of Rhodesia and were in no way representative of public opinion.

While the British Prime Minister gave only one hour of his time to the Council of Chiefs (the acknowledged leaders of 80 per cent. of the African population) he gave nearly a full day to rival nationalist delegations led by men who had either never fought an election or who had never had a vote of any sort cast in their favour.

### Royal Commission

Hope surged again in Rhodesia when it was announced that proposals for the establishment of a Royal Commission were to be considered by the two governments. The Rhodesian Government was prepared to abide by the findings of such a Royal Commission with the proviso that the Commission's terms of reference should be to find out whether or not independence, on the existing Constitution appropriately amended to accord with the views of the Rhodesian Government, was acceptable to the majority of the people in Rhodesia.

It is probable that with good will on both sides—and this was certainly forthcoming from the Rhodesian side—the Commission could have evolved its own *modus operandi* which would have been acceptable to all parties. But on his return to London, Mr. Wilson had clearly done some rethinking. . . .

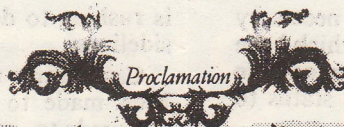
In his statement to the House of Commons, he hedged the proposal round with so many conditions that it became hopeless. For example, he laid down how it should operate instead of leaving it to the Commission to make its own proposals in an interim report. He insisted that the Commission should make known throughout Rhodesia the British Government's opposition to the views of the Rhodesian Government, thus seeking to turn an intended impartial body into a propaganda vehicle.

He stated that unless the Commission's report was unanimous it would be unacceptable—and on top of all that he "reserved the British Government's position at all stages". In other words, had the Commission finally come forward with a unanimous report in favour of the Rhodesian Government, the British Government could still have rejected it.

Rhodesians felt that had Mr. Wilson really been sincere about the Royal Commission proposal, he would himself have stayed in Rhodesia to reach agreement on its terms of reference. Leaving Mr. Bottomley behind for 24 hours, ostensibly for this purpose, was no more than a token gesture.

They now believe—and reluctantly so did the Rhodesian Government before it was driven to take the final step—that Mr. Wilson's visit with his coterie of civil servants and the later arrival of the British Attorney-General, Sir Elwyn Jones, was a gigantic charade intended to convince the British electorate that: "I did everything humanly possible."





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hereas in the course of human affairs history has shown that it may become necessary for a people to resolve the political affiliations which have connected them with another people and to assume amongst other nations the separate and equal status to which they are entitled.

And Whereas in such event a respect for the opinions of mankind requires them to declare to other nations the causes which impel them to assume full responsibility for their own affairs.

Now Therefore, We, The Government of Rhodesia, Do Hereby Declare:

That it is an indisputable and accepted historic fact that since 1923 the Government of Rhodesia have exercised the powers of self-government and have been responsible for the progress, development and welfare of their people.

That the people of Rhodesia having demonstrated their loyalty to the Crown and to their kith and kin in the United Kingdom and elsewhere through two world wars, and having been prepared to shed their blood and give of their substance in what they believed to be the mutual interests of freedom-loving people, now see all that they have cherished about to be shattered on the rocks of expediency.

That the people of Rhodesia have witnessed a process which is destructive of those very precepts upon which civilization in a primitive country has been built; they have seen the principles of Western democracy, responsible government and moral standards crumble elsewhere, nevertheless they have remained steadfast.

That the people of Rhodesia fully support the requests of their Government for sovereign independence but have witnessed its consistent refusal of the Government of the United Kingdom to accede to their entreaties.

That the Government of the United Kingdom have thus demonstrated that they are not prepared to grant sovereign independence to Rhodesia on terms acceptable to the people of Rhodesia, thereby persisting in maintaining an unwarrantable jurisdiction over Rhodesia, obstructing laws and treaties with other states and the conduct of affairs with other nations and refusing assent to laws necessary for the public good, all this to the detriment of the future peace, prosperity and good government of Rhodesia.

That the Government of Rhodesia have for a long period patiently and in good faith negotiated with the Government of the United Kingdom for the removal of the remaining limitations placed upon them and for the grant of sovereign independence.

That in the belief that procrastination and delay strike at and injure the very life of the nation, the Government of Rhodesia consider it essential that Rhodesia should attain, without delay, sovereign independence, the justice of which is beyond question.

Now Therefore, We The Government of Rhodesia, in humble submission to Almighty God who controls the destinies of nations, conscious that the people of Rhodesia have always shown unwavering loyalty and devotion to Her Majesty the Queen and earnestly praying that we and the people of Rhodesia will not be hindered in our determination to continue exercising our undoubted right to demonstrate the same loyalty and devotion, and seeking to promote the common good so that the dignity and freedom of all men may be assured, Do, By This

Proclamation, adopt, enact and give to the people of Rhodesia the Constitution annexed hereto

God Save The Queen

Given under Our Hand at Salisbury, this eleventh day of November in the Year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-five

Prime Minister *I. Douglas Smith*

Deputy Prime Minister *Charles M. Dube*

Ministers *William J. Hofen* *Kentana*

*B. H. Muesett*

*James F. McLean*

*H. J. Munder*

*Sean Harcourt*  
*H. Marshall*



Two further events occurred before the Declaration of Independence. On the night of 10th November, 1965, Britain's High Commissioner in Salisbury delivered a verbal message to the Rhodesian Government. He was invited to put the message in writing. This he refused to do.

Finally, there was a telephone call from Mr. Harold Wilson in London to Mr. Ian Smith in Salisbury at 9 a.m. on 11th November, 1965. This conversation was tape recorded in London without the knowledge of the Rhodesian Prime Minister, and a transcript was later published from Mr. Wilson's office at 10 Downing Street.

The substance of the conversation was to the effect that the British Prime Minister considered reconciliation was still possible (but in terms of the conditions he had laid down concerning the Royal Commission). The Rhodesian Prime Minister could not see how reconciliation was possible in such circumstances.

Finally, Mr. Wilson offered to send a senior Minister to Rhodesia. As no less a person than the British Prime Minister and his Commonwealth Relations Secretary had been in Rhodesia only a few days earlier, was it to be wondered at that Mr. Ian Smith rejected this offer?

It surely could only be regarded as a further delaying tactic to throw Rhodesia off its guard and to promote further uncertainty and procrastination until the so-called "Rhodesian problem" could be handed over to the Commonwealth Conference in 1966. Were Rhodesia to wait for that event its fate would be sealed irrevocably. With a majority of Afro-Asian members, the outcome would have been inevitable.

So it was that at 1.15 p.m. on 11th November, 1965, Prime Minister Ian Douglas Smith introduced Rhodesia's Declaration of Independence in a nation-wide broadcast with the words: "Whereas in the course of human



affairs history has shown that it may become necessary for a people to resolve the political affiliations which have connected them with another people and to assume amongst other nations the separate and equal status to which they are entitled. . . ."

Since then sanctions have been mounted against Rhodesia. A little cynically, Rhodesians have noted the official line of the British Parliamentary Opposition that it would not oppose sanctions "so long as these are not punitive"—as if sanctions could be anything but punitive.

They have noted the measures taken by Mr. Wilson's Government—many of them incredibly petty and spiteful, and others destined not to undermine Rhodesia's economy as was obviously intended, but world confidence in Britain's fiscal integrity.

For example, one of the most paltry and reprehensible measures inspired by Mr. Wilson was to block payment to about 2,000 British pensioners living in Rhodesia. These pensioners, many of them disabled ex-Servicemen, had served Britain well. While there was no legal obligation on the Rhodesian Government to look after these people, on the grounds of compassion and humanity it immediately created a fund so as to honour Britain's responsibilities. Pressure in Britain compelled that country's Government not to renounce its obligations to these people; the fund created in Rhodesia was put into "cold storage"—for use in case Mr. Wilson's Government introduced further vindictive measures against these unfortunates. And sure enough this happened! Having driven Rhodesia from the sterling area Britain will now only pay these pensions in sterling—a currency which is worthless to her pensioners in Rhodesia. However, the Rhodesian Government successfully anticipated this latest example of Britain's chicanery and will now operate its emergency pension fund.

As for Britain's fiscal integrity, the world's financial houses will know what to think of a government which seizes reserves in an effort to resolve a political dispute.

### Curious Purpose

We do not deny that sanctions may create unemployment—a somewhat curious purpose for any government which claims to base its doctrines on the welfare of the workers! The deliberate creation of economic distress which will hit those who can least afford to be hit (in our case, mostly immigrant African workers from neighbouring states) is both cruel and futile. The Rhodesian Government has its own plans for the alleviation of any distress that may be caused by Mr. Wilson's "cripple Rhodesia" strategy.

Let us consider the wider implications of sanctions. The cost to the British taxpayer is already astronomical. Countless millions will have to be found to finance Mr. Wilson's designs.

It is a personal campaign, of course; Mr. Wilson knows that if—we say WHEN—Rhodesia wins through, he may find himself in the political wilderness. To save himself, he is committing massive amounts of British taxpayers' money to his campaign. As a corollary he is actively working for the cause of world communism.

Countries like Tanzania, Ghana and others which have had countless millions in aid from British and American taxpayers, are now virtually communist satellites. These are the countries whose bidding Mr. Wilson

is rushing to do—while Russia and China laugh on the sidelines.

Cash grants totalling nearly £19,000,000 have recently been made to Zambia; a further £12,000,000 will be required to operate an airlift of dubious efficiency because of inadequate airports, Africa's torrential rains, and distances that make the Berlin airlift look like child's play!

By filching Rhodesia's capital reserves in London, Mr. Wilson has been obliged to assume responsibility for that country's public debts which in one way or another are guaranteed by the British Government. These total £108,000,000.

### The Cost

Even at this early stage in the exchanges, it is costing British taxpayers more than £150,000,000—and this takes no account of Rhodesia's trade with Britain which last year injected £35,000,000 into Britain's economy. The cost to Britain of having evicted Rhodesia from the sterling area is inestimable.

All this, the best part of £200,000,000 is only the start!!

More sanctions may follow, but they will neither wreck Rhodesia's economy nor bring down its Government. They will certainly not deflect Rhodesia's people from the course they have chosen for the preservation of Christian values and—indeed, the British way of life—in this part of Africa.

All the dire predictions so sedulously promoted in the world's Press of violence and mayhem inside Rhodesia in the event of a UDI have been proved utterly untrue. They have just not materialized. Rhodesia has not "gone up in flames". Indeed, African support for Government's action transcends the highest expectations.

Rhodesia's Armed Forces, Police and Civil Service have loyally continued to carry out their duties. Commerce and industry are facing up squarely and determinedly to the sanctions designed to smash Rhodesia's economy, and these too, will fail.

We know that they will have effect, that they will create austerity and even hardship. We are not dismayed by this knowledge; it is not much more than 20 years ago that most of us were facing such difficulties although not alone.

While Mr. Harold Wilson and his colleagues continue to try to destroy the peace of Rhodesia; while countries which have appropriated millions of pounds in aid from British taxpayers have the impudence to talk about "expelling Britain from the Commonwealth" unless British soldiers are sent to fight British people; while massacres, public hangings and violence elsewhere in Africa ostensibly pass unnoticed by the world at large, Rhodesia continues as an oasis of calm and stability.

Its affection for the British Crown and people remains undiminished. Rhodesia still flies the Union Jack. Its National Anthem is: "God Save the Queen".

Sovereign, independent Rhodesia faces the future with calm confidence. It is the earnest desire of all its people that the breach which has opened between the mother country and Rhodesia will heal. Rhodesians believe it will—but not at the price of the destruction of all Rhodesia has built up.