

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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STATUS OF RHODESIA

Communication from the Government of the United Kingdom

The following communication, dated 12 November 1965, has been addressed to the Director-General by the United Kingdom delegation in Geneva.

I take this opportunity of informing you that Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom consider the Southern Rhodesian Government's purported declaration of independence to be an act of rebellion against the authority of Her Majesty's Government and against the Constitution as by law established. It is an illegal act and ineffective in law.

Her Majesty The Queen, in the exercise of the authority conferred on Her by Sections 42 and 45 of the Southern Rhodesian Constitution, has accordingly dismissed the Prime Minister and Ministers of the Southern Rhodesian Government from their offices. They are now private persons and can exercise no legal authority in Southern Rhodesia.

Her Majesty's Government will, of course, have no dealings with the illegal régime. They trust that it will not be accorded any recognition and that its representatives will not be received in any official capacity.

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