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I. The Franchise under the 1961 Constitution

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PART ONE - THE POLITICAL EVOLUTION OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA

I - General Outline of Conditions in the Territory

The colony of Southern Rhodesia ^{1/} comprises an area of 150,820 square miles (389,115 square kilometres). It borders with Zambia on the north-west, Botswana on the south-west, the Republic of South Africa on the south and Mozambique on the east.

by C.D. Rudd. arrived at Lobengula's court and on 30 October 1888 obtained

only elected members of the Legislative Council set up in 1897 were white;
racial segregation was imposed. 8/ Negroes were introduced in 1905 and

in detention or in prison from 1964 until their release in December 1974.

The 1961 Constitution and its aftermath

At the end of 1960 as it became evident that the Central African Federation was doomed, 16/ a Constitutional Conference was held in London and Salisbury to discuss Southern Rhodesia's future. It resulted in the granting of a new Constitution under which the British Government succeeded in

... office the Rhodesian Front Government began to

the declaration, it had been condemned by a virtually unanimous vote
of the General Assembly 22/ 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

In a separate move the British Government instructed the Governor

Two tentative agreements were arrived at by Mr. Wilson and Mr. Smith at H.M.S. "Tiger" and at H.M.S. "Fearless" in December 1966 and October 1968 respectively providing for Southern Rhodesia's independence under a white minority government based on a constitution with a qualified franchise which held out the prospect of eventual majority rule. 37/ The draft agreements were subsequently rejected by Mr. Smith's "Cabinet" on the

Contacts between Mr. Wilson's government and the rebel régime were maintained after the collapse of the Fearless talks but were suspended following the purported publication and subsequent adoption in June 1969 of a new constitution. 38/

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generally opposed to the Proposals". ^{42/} According to the Pearce Commission
the African rejection of the Proposals was

The probability of Southern Rhodesia's losing these routes after Mozambique became independent, together with other factors to be discussed below, caused great concern and anxiety in Salisbury. Some South African

for Southern Rhodesia of developments in Mozambique. Mr. Wilf Nussey of the Johannesburg Star, for example, flatly stated early in June 1974

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more traffic than all of South Africa's other ports put together, 50/

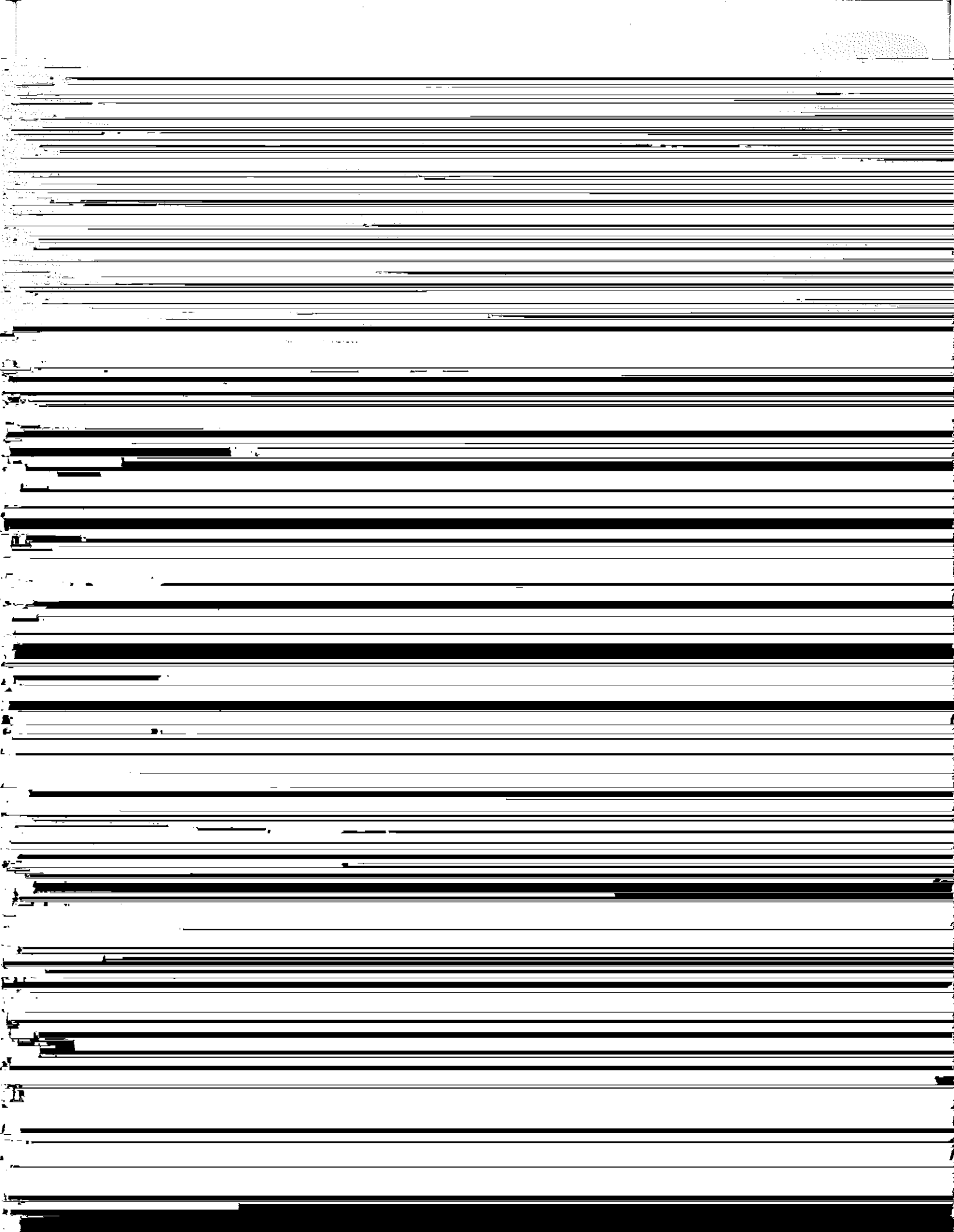
situation likely to facilitate rather than impede political cooperation across the frontier; (d) economically the entire region contains some



On 9 January 1975 Mr. Desmond Lardner-Burke, the Southern Rhodesian

"Minister of Justice, Law and Order" announced that the 17





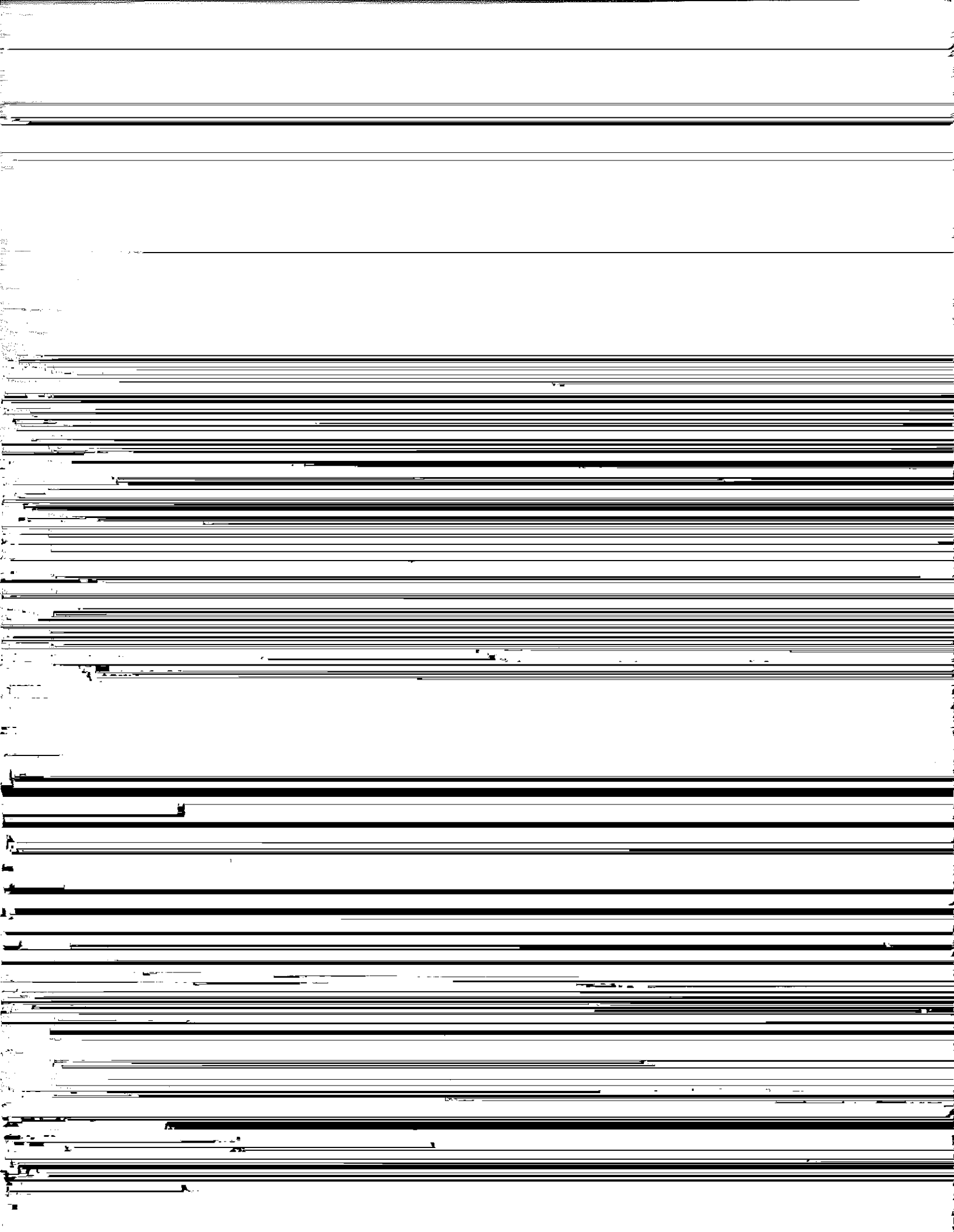
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After calling attention to South Africa's role in the survival

Leaders of the African National Council of Zimbabwe appear
before the Special Committee on Decolonization

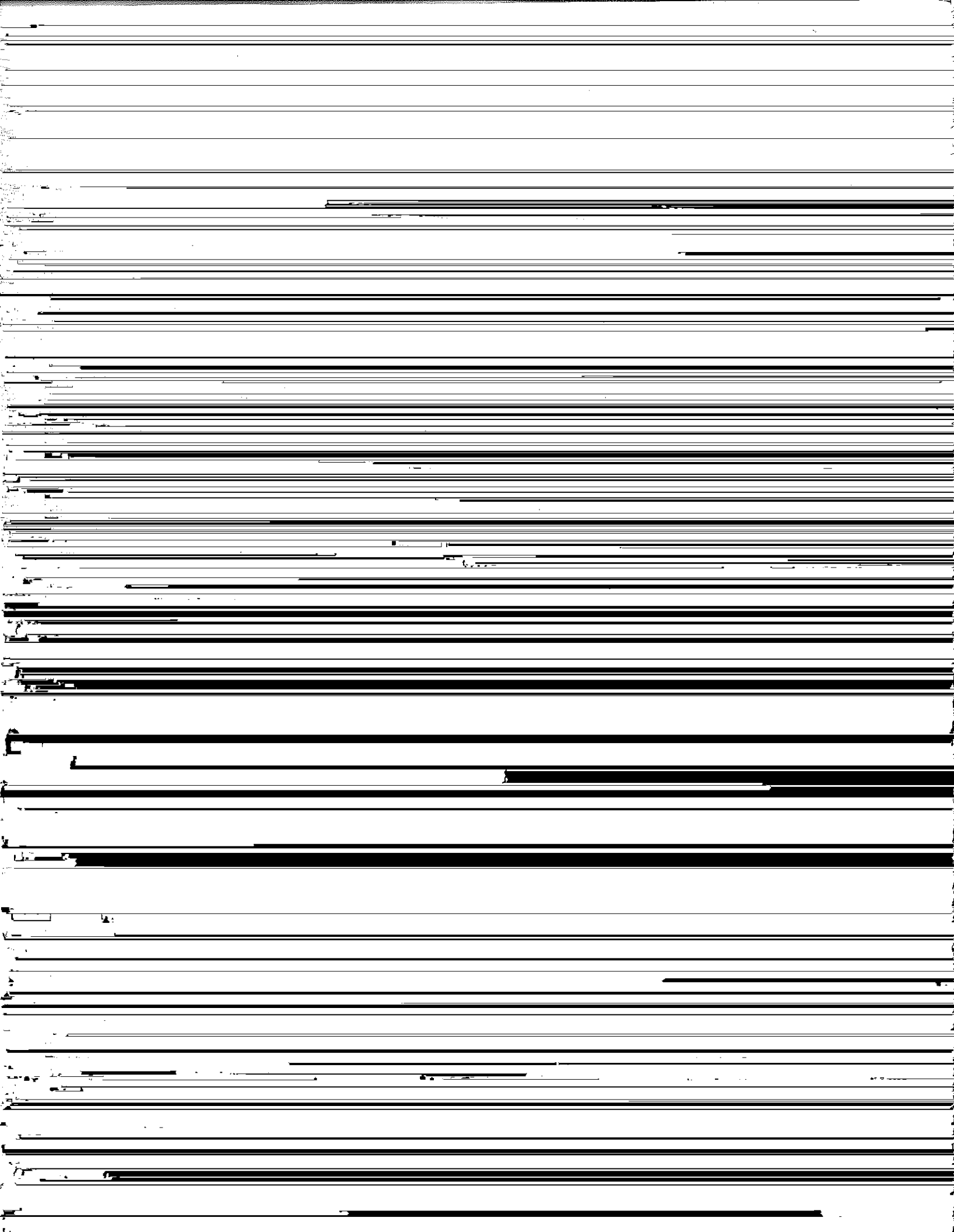
A delegation of the African National Council of Zimbabwe led by
Bishop Muzorewa, the Reverend N. Sithole and Mr. Joshua Nkomo

the Special Committee of Twenty-Four on 9 May 1975. 67/ Speaking before
that body Bishop Muzorewa restated that it was not the Africans'
intention to drive the white men into the sea but to drive colonialism
out of Africa. After stating that his delegation had been invited to



Developments concerning talks between the illegal régime and
the ANC following the Dar es Salaam Declaration

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UNILATERAL DEPARTMENT AND CONSTITUTION

I - Developments prior to the Unilateral
Declaration of Independence

The Southern Rhodesia problem first came before the United Nations
General Assembly in 1962 as a result of Britain's refusal to transmit