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SPEECH BY SIR ERNEST GUEST (MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND AIR),  
LEADER OF THE SOUTHERN RHODESIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT.

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Mr. President, Fellow Delegates:

This is the first occasion on which the country I have the honour to represent has been invited to attend an international conference of these dimensions in its own right. To us the occasion is a noteworthy milestone in the history of our development, a development which our great founder, Cecil John Rhodes, could scarcely have contemplated when less than sixty years ago, with his great vision and humanitarianism, he founded what is now the self-governing Colony of Southern Rhodesia.

As Leader of this Delegation, I wish to express on behalf of my Government and the people of the Colony my deep appreciation of the recognition of the fact that while not a Member of the United Nations and not enjoying complete sovereign rights in every respect, we do possess full autonomy in respect of the conduct of our external commercial relations and are therefore directly and materially interested in the purpose for which this Conference has been summoned.

Southern Rhodesia is one of the countries affected by the decision of the Economic and Social Council to restrict voting rights to Members of the United Nations. I agree with other honorable Delegates who have expressed their disappointment and dissatisfaction with this decision but I am confident that the body which made the decision can and will unmake it if this Conference takes

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what appears to me to be the only course available and submits the question for re-consideration. It seems highly anomalous that Burma, Ceylon and Southern Rhodesia, which were recognized at Geneva as contracting parties and took part in the discussions there should now not be permitted the right to vote on a Charter which should have a considerate bearing on the future economic and social conditions in these countries. I am, however, constrained to say that Southern Rhodesia is willing and anxious to make its maximum contribution towards the high aims of this Conference in particular and of the United Nations in general. It was privileged in war to make a contribution out of all proportion to the size of its population and its wealth, and it earnestly desires to make no less a contribution towards the preservation of peace and the development of a higher standard of living, full employment and conditions of economic progress and development envisaged by the Charter for the peoples of the world.

At the moment, Southern Rhodesia's external trade, while exceeding that of some Members of the United Nations, has not yet assumed large proportions. My country, however, is rich in natural resources, the exploitation of which is not only likely to revolutionize her internal economic position but also, we hope, add considerably to the volume of international trade. These developments are under active consideration at present and include such measures as the conservation and harnessing of the waters of the great Zambesi River. We have chrome, iron and coal deposits of immense size which, coupled with the easily available power, provide a field of progress which must extend to all spheres of economic and social activity. The provisions of the Charter which deal with economic development are consequently very important to us. We particularly welcome those

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clauses which encourage the more experienced and the economically stronger members to help weaker members to quicken the process of their development. We firmly believe that such co-operative action is the surest path to general economic recovery - not because my country, being largely undeveloped, may gain internally thereby but because fuller production has a generating force which must re-act favorably on all participants in international trade.

If the spirit underlying the Charter is observed, there will be no room for selfishness or narrow nationalism which in the past has so often shattered the peace of the world. I feel sure that you will agree if I add that the aims and purposes of the Charter depend for their fulfilment on the will of the peoples of the countries here represented to give effect to them and that a heavy responsibility devolves upon us here to see to it that public opinion in our respective countries is properly informed so that the spirit which animates us here may be passed on to the people by whom the principles of the Charter must be sustained.

I also desire as a newcomer to these conferences to express appreciation of the friendly and co-operative atmosphere which pervades the meetings I have already attended - a characteristic which must appeal to anyone privileged to attend these assemblies and at the same time an inspiration to make every effort to bring to fruition the high aims and ideals to which the nations have dedicated themselves.

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