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## V. LEADING PERSONALITIES

### Chief of State: Clifford W. Dupont

After Rhodesia became a republic in March 1970, Clifford Dupont's election to the presidency was almost a foregone conclusion. One of the founders of the Rhodesian Front and reputed to be one of the main formulators of its principles, he has acted as the country's chief executive in place of the British governor since independence was declared in 1965. Before that he held several ministerial posts and served for a time as Deputy Prime Minister and co-president of the Rhodesian Front. He gave up most of these posts in mid-1964 because of poor health, but because of his popularity within the party he was raised to the largely ceremonial post of Officer Administering the Government in November 1965. Dupont was born in London in 1905.

### Head of Government: Ian Douglas Smith

Son of an early settler, a gentleman farmer, RAF pilot and war hero, Prime Minister Ian Smith is the personification of qualities held in high esteem by most white Rhodesians. Friendly, straightforward, unexcitable, self-assured, he is firmly wedded to a sense of values he would not think of changing. Smith entered politics in 1948 and, on the strength of his anti-Communist views and his opposition to African participation in government, he was elected to the Rhodesian legislature. Later he won a seat in the parliament of the federation, which then linked present day Rhodesia, Zambia, and Malawi, and in 1958 he became the chief parliamentary whip of the governing party. In 1961, however, he resigned in opposition to the 1961 constitutional proposals and helped found the Rhodesian Front party. After the 1962 election he became Minister of Treasury and Leader of the House and in 1964 Prime Minister. Despite almost world-wide hostility and UN-imposed economic sanctions against Rhodesia, Smith continues to follow the policy he reaffirmed in a July 1967 speech: "We will never deviate. Our independence is something which we have and something we have no intention of ever relinquishing. We are going quietly on our way building a constitution for Rhodesians by Rhodesians which I believe in the end will be the correct answer for Rhodesia." Smith was born in Rhodesia in 1919.

### Other prominent politicians

**Desmond W. Lardner-Burke:** Lardner-Burke has been Minister of Justice and Law and Order since June 1964. One of the most extreme right-wing reactionaries in the cabinet and strongly anti-British, he was one of the

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