

= Roy Welensky =

Sir Roland " Roy " Welensky , KCMG ( né Raphael Welensky ; 20 January 1907 ? 5 December 1991 ) was a Northern Rhodesian politician and the second and last prime minister of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland .

Born in Salisbury , Southern Rhodesia ( now Harare , Zimbabwe ) to an Afrikaner mother and a Lithuanian Jewish father , he moved to Northern Rhodesia , became involved with the trade unions , and entered the colonial legislative council in 1938 . There , he campaigned for the amalgamation of Northern and Southern Rhodesia ( the latter under white self @-@ government , the former under the colonial office ) . Although unsuccessful , he succeeded in the formation of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland , a state within the British Empire that sought to retain predominant power for the white minority while moving in a progressive political direction , in contrast to apartheid South Africa .

Becoming Prime Minister of the Federation in 1957 , Welensky opposed British moves towards black majority rule , and used force to suppress politically motivated violence in the territories . After the advent of black rule in two of the Federation 's three territories ( Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland , now Zambia and Malawi respectively ) , it collapsed in 1963 . Welensky retired to Salisbury , where he re @-@ entered politics and attempted to stop Rhodesia ( formerly Southern Rhodesia ) from unilaterally declaring itself independent . With the end of white rule in 1979 , and the independence of Rhodesia as Zimbabwe under Robert Mugabe in 1980 , Welensky moved to England , where he died in 1991 . A fervent admirer of Britain and the Empire , Welensky described himself as " half Jewish , half Afrikaner [ and ] 100 % British " .

= = Youth = =

Welensky was born in Pioneer Street , Salisbury , Southern Rhodesia . His father , Michael Welensky ( b. c . 1843 ) , was of Lithuanian Jewish origin , hailing from a village near Wilno ( today Vilnius ) ; a trader in Russia and horse @-@ smuggler during the Franco @-@ Prussian War , he settled in Southern Rhodesia after first emigrating to the United States , where he was a saloon @-@ keeper , and then South Africa . His mother , Leah ( born Aletta Ferreira ; c . 1865 ? 1918 ) , was a ninth @-@ generation Afrikaner of Dutch ancestry . His parents , for whom Raphael or " Roy " was the 13th child , kept a " poor white " boarding house . Welensky 's mother died when he was 11 , being treated by Godfrey Huggins , a doctor who was later to become the Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia . Although not of British ancestry , Welensky was intensely pro @-@ British , a distinctive sentiment among Rhodesians . John Connell , in his foreword to Welensky 's book 4000 Days , wrote : " Welensky , who had not a drop of British blood in his veins , shared this pride and loyalty [ towards Britain ] to the full . "

After leaving school at the age of 14 , Welensky found employment with Rhodesia Railways as a fireman , while putting his physical strength to work as a boxer . He rose through the ranks of Rhodesia Railways to become a locomotive enginedriver and became involved in the trade union movement , joining the Rhodesian Railway Workers ' Union . After participating in the unsuccessful 1929 Rhodesian Railways strike Welensky was moved by management to Broken Hill , the main base of the railways in Northern Rhodesia . In 1933 he became Chairman of the Broken Hill branch of the union , and was appointed to the National Council .

While working on the railways , he became the professional heavyweight boxing champion of Southern Rhodesia at 19 and held the position until he was 21 . During this time , Welensky met his first wife , Elizabeth Henderson , who was working at a cafe in Bulawayo , Southern Rhodesia at the time . They married after a two @-@ year courtship .

= = Colonial politics = =

Welensky was elected to the Northern Rhodesian Legislative Council in the 1938 general elections . The Governor prevented Welensky from enlisting in the armed forces in World War II and appointed

him Director of Manpower . In 1941 he formed his own party , the Northern Rhodesian Labour Party , with the aim of amalgamating the colony with Southern Rhodesia under a new constitution . The party won all five seats it contested in the 1941 elections . After the leader of the unofficial members in the Legislative Council , Stewart Gore @-@ Browne , resigned in 1945 and stated that black Africans had lost confidence in the whites ( due to the wish for amalgamation ) , Welensky was elected leader .

= = Amalgamation and federation = =

From the beginning , Welensky was involved in the creation of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland . He had earlier wanted an amalgamation of Northern and Southern Rhodesia with a constitution similar to that of Southern Rhodesia ( that had granted responsible government to the white Rhodesians ) . After the British Government rejected this idea , he set about the creation of a federation , and against his judgement , the small colony of Nyasaland was included . His main wish for amalgamation , and later federation , was primarily so the complementary economic strengths of the Rhodesias could be put to best use . He felt that the colonies were missing out on the post @-@ war economic boom .

To this end , Welensky organised a conference in February 1949 to investigate the idea of a federation . Held at the Victoria Falls Hotel ( a common venue for Rhodesian political conferences ) , representatives from the Northern and Southern Rhodesian Governments were present , but native Africans and the British Government were not . It was agreed that continued pushes for amalgamation would fail , with both the British and native Africans opposed . Welensky suggested that the Constitution of Australia be used as a basis for the proposed federal constitution , and pushed the idea of ' partnership ' between blacks and whites . However , he insisted that " for as long as I can see , in that partnership [ the whites ] will be senior partners " .

Apart from organising the federation , Welensky won a significant political battle in Northern Rhodesia against the British South Africa Company ( BSAC ) , which controlled mineral rights and the associated royalties throughout the territory . The company , and not the British crown , had signed the treaties with African kings that surrendered mining rights , but the BSAC had stopped administering Northern Rhodesia in 1924 . Welensky argued that the territory had a right to the royalties , and petitioned the governor to take action . After many talks , the BSAC relented and agreed to surrender mineral rights in 1986 , and to pay 20 % of its profits from these rights to the government until then .

In March 1952 , the colonial and the British governments met in London to discuss federation . There , the idea for a federation was finalised and settled , although the colonial governments had , again , insisted on amalgamation . They were rebuffed by the left @-@ leaning public servant ( later Sir ) Andrew Cohen , who , after much deliberation , brought the parties to an agreement . It was acknowledged by those at the meeting that all too often the racial policies of the Rhodesias were confused with the emerging apartheid of South Africa , and Welensky himself claimed to refute these ideas when being interviewed by a South African newspaper . He was paternalistic towards native Africans , but believed in the dictum of " equal rights for all civilised men " and gradual advancement .

Behind the scenes , Welensky and the Rhodesians had been courting the Conservatives , while the native Africans had been doing the same with Labour . A British general election was held in 1951 and the Conservatives gained power . Labour , mindful of the overwhelming opposition of Africans from both Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland and of the Colonial Office mandate to oversee native interests , had been lukewarm at best to the idea of federation , and had been wholly opposed to amalgamation . After the election , the bipartisan approach to federation broke down and the British laws for its creation passed only with the support of the Conservatives , with both Liberal and Labour Parties now opposed .

= = Federation established = =

Welensky stood for the federal legislature in 1953 for the United Federal Party ( UFP ) , created by himself and Southern Rhodesian Prime Minister Sir Godfrey Huggins . The party was successful in its first election , with twice the votes of the opposition Confederate Party . Welensky himself gained more than 80 % of the vote in the federal constituency of Broken Hill and was immediately promoted to Minister for Transport .

The first few years of the federation were characterised by a relatively peaceful political atmosphere and a booming economy . The government 's coffers were kept full through revenue from Northern Rhodesia 's copper mines , and overseas investment saw the rapid expansion of the cities of Salisbury , Bulawayo and Lusaka . High @-@ standard tar roads replaced dirt tracks and the railway system was expanded . Welensky credited the high rate of development to the astute management of the federal Minister of Finance , Donald Macintyre .

The Southern Rhodesian Government , under the leadership of Garfield Todd , began removing restrictions imposed on native Africans . The civil service opened more positions to blacks , the title for male Africans was changed from ' AM ' ( African male ) to Mr. , and diners and restaurants were allowed to be multiracial ; Welensky , as Transport Minister , allowed for railway dining cars to be multiracial . However , when it came to liberalising alcohol restrictions on blacks , Welensky argued against doing so , stating that such an action would cause the UFP to lose the next election . After repeated failed attempts to secure Dominion status for the federation , Prime Minister Huggins opted not to stand again for his party 's leadership at their September 1956 conference . In October he resigned and Welensky , the second most senior figure in the federal arena , was chosen to replace him . Welensky took office on 1 November .

= = Prime minister = =

On taking office , Welensky was forced to take sides in the Suez Crisis . The government of the United Kingdom received heavy international criticism for its actions , but Welensky 's government , with those of Australia and New Zealand , nonetheless stood behind Britain . It was Welensky 's first experience in international politics . In the aftermath of the Suez debacle British colonial policy changed significantly , which would have adverse effects for the federation . It marked the decline of a gradual approach to decolonisation , and a rapid speeding up of the process . Politically , only three years after its founding , the federation began to decline .

International attitudes to the federation were critical , particularly from the Afro @-@ Asian bloc in the United Nations . At a time when most colonial powers were rushing their colonies towards independence , the federation seemed to its opponents to be an unwelcome obstacle . In Britain , Labour grew more critical , and African nationalists in the federation itself became more vocal , dissatisfied with the liberalisation that was taking place , and demanding faster moves towards African advancement . The Governor of Northern Rhodesia , Sir Arthur Benson , wrote a secret letter to his superiors in Britain , highly critical of Welensky and the federation ; this letter remained undiscovered until 1958 , when Huggins revealed it to Welensky .

= = = Nyasaland unrest = = =

The Colonial Secretary Alan Lennox @-@ Boyd visited the federation in January 1957 , while Welensky prepared to outline the difficulties regarding African advancement . Seeking to bring Africans into the established political processes , and hoping they would shun the recently formed African National Congress ( ANC ) parties , Welensky hit out at what he saw as the poor Colonial Office practice of making the situation " [ consist ] of two opposed policies , black rule and white rule . They naturally prefer to aim for black rule and hope they will experience this , which they regard as the apotheosis of Colonial Office policy " .

The Nyasaland African Congress ( NAC ) was particularly vocal about increased African representation in the Nyasaland Legislative Council , demanding in September 1957 an African majority in the council . Nyasaland 's inclusion in the federation was never a goal of its proponents , it was there primarily because it was not economically viable by itself . Welensky did not understand

or appreciate the party's goal of increased African representation or secession when it relied on the federation for its well being .

Hastings Banda , the leader of the Nyasaland nationalist cause , returned to the territory in 1958 and began organising opposition to the federation . Having lived outside the territory for more than 25 years and having great difficulty remembering his native African language , he required the assistance of interpreters to communicate with the population , whom he stirred into a frenzy with his speeches . After the Governor and the federal government refused to give Africans a majority in the Legislative Council , he embarked on a speaking tour of the territory . In January 1959 , he stated in a speech that he " put Salisbury [ the capital ] on fire ... I got Salisbury rocking , rocking , and got it awake out of its political sleep ... " , after which his followers stoned passing cars and police officers .

The federal government met with the territorial governments to plan for a response should the violence get out of hand . Welensky did not rule out deploying federal troops if the situation deteriorated . Speaking to the defence chiefs in Salisbury , he said that " during the next three months we can expect some fairly serious trouble in Nyasaland ... It is my concern to ensure that this government is in a position to exercise its responsibilities if trouble comes " .

A NAC meeting was held outside Blantyre on 25 January . It was alleged that the meeting discussed in detail a plan for the overthrow of the territorial government and the massacre of the territory's whites and any blacks who collaborated with them . ( although a subsequent Royal Commission found there was insufficient evidence to make such a claim ) . Welensky obtained the meeting's proceedings in early February and decided to act , calling a meeting of the federal and territorial governments . Federal troops were deployed to Nyasaland on 21 February , the Governor proclaimed a state of emergency on 3 March and the nationalist leaders were arrested and flown to jails in Southern Rhodesia . In the subsequent fortnight , riots broke out and troops used force to end the violence . Almost 50 people died in the unrest .

The main militant African nationalist parties in each territory were banned by the federal and territorial governments , but all reorganised under new names only months later . The Southern Rhodesian ANC became the National Democratic Party ( later ZAPU ) , the Northern Rhodesian ANC became the Zambian African National Congress , and the Nyasaland ANC became the Malawi Congress Party . The media's use of the term ' police state ' to describe the response to the violence outraged the Liberals , the Church of Scotland , and leftist Conservatives , and particularly the Labour Party , in Britain . John Stonehouse , a Labour MP , had been deported prior to the declaration of the state of emergency , adding to the tension . A Royal Commission was announced to investigate the violence . Welensky was indignant when asked to contribute to the Royal Commission , and the Labour Party boycotted it .

= = = Commissions and Macmillan = = =

In addition to the Royal Commission that investigated the Nyasaland violence ( now known as the Devlin Report ) , the British Government organised a second one , known as the Monckton Report , to advise on the future of the federation . Released in October 1960 , the report advocated sweeping changes to be made to the federal structure , including African majorities in the Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesian legislatures . Welensky was outraged when the report was published , calling it the " death knell of federation " and rejecting it out of hand . African nationalist opinion was just as opposed , but on different grounds . All nationalists wanted an end to federation , and independence for the territories as black @-@ majority @-@ ruled states . Welensky was opposed to any talk of secession , and the Monckton Report suggested it in writing when it stated that the territories should have the option after five years under a new federal constitution .

Early 1960 saw British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan journey to the federation for the first and last time . There he held talks in person with Welensky and the territorial governments , and took the opportunity to gauge African opinion towards the federation . He also wished to talk to the jailed African leaders , but was met with a rebuff from Welensky . Hastings Banda discussed the probability of his release from prison with the British Government through Labour MP Dingle Foot .

Welensky had Banda 's cell wired for sound and was frustrated with what he saw as the British government 's " betrayal , duplicity , appeasement , cowardice and loss of nerve " when dealing with the African nationalists and the federation . Macmillan travelled on to South Africa , where he made his ' Wind of Change ' speech to the South African Parliament , raising the attention of South African Prime Minister , Dr Hendrik Verwoerd . Welensky was informed that Banda would be released so he could join in discussions with the British Government over the future of the federation . Losing patience with the British , Welensky took a harder line against them : " I 've tried all along to behave in a reasonable and responsible manner . Now I 'm seriously wondering whether restraint has been the right policy . "

= = = New constitutions = = =

After Banda was released from prison against the wishes of Welensky , he travelled to the United Kingdom , where he took part in the Nyasaland constitutional talks . The outcome was a constitution which , through a voting system that was as complex as that of the federation itself , amounted to black majority rule for the territory . Bitter and angry at what he saw as British ignorance to the situation , Welensky did not comprehend how the British were willing to deal with Banda . In Welensky 's words , since his release from prison , " [ Banda ] was careful to appeal for calm and to condemn violence " , but Welensky was averse to Banda 's demands for black majority rule and believed that granting it to the territory would mean the end of the federation .

In Northern and Southern Rhodesia new constitutions were also enacted . The Southern Rhodesian constitution was very cautious and prolonged white rule . It had 50 A @-@ roll seats with high voting qualifications ( essentially for whites ) , and 15 B @-@ roll seats with lower qualifications ( for blacks ) . A system of ' cross voting ' meant that results in A @-@ roll seats would be affected by the B @-@ roll vote , and vice versa . All constitutions were signed by the UFP and the African nationalist party in each territory . However , there were immediate repercussions ; Ian Smith , chief whip for the UFP in the federal assembly , resigned in protest at the new Southern Rhodesian constitution , calling it " racist " , while the nationalist National Democratic Party withdrew support for the constitution having earlier signed it .

Eventually , Welensky was comfortable with an African majority in Nyasaland and for the province to secede , seeking to preserve only a union of the two Rhodesias . But , as a Northern Rhodesian , he did not accept black majority rule for the territory and a battle was had with the British Government over its new constitution throughout 1961 ? 62 . Discussing Northern Rhodesia under African rule with Smith : " I am not prepared to hand power to the blacks . Personally I could not live in a country where they were in control . "

Welensky considered a federal unilateral declaration of independence when the new Northern Rhodesian constitution appeared likely to grant an African majority in its parliament . Determined at one point to prevent changes , Welensky was convinced that if he refused , the British would use military force to remove his government . Believing that preparations were being made for an invasion from Kenya , he discussed the federation 's ability to repel an attack with his defence chiefs and plans were set in motion . In the end , the idea of a British invasion was one of many options considered , and did not make it past cabinet discussion .

= = = Congo , Katanga and Tshombe = = =

After Congo @-@ Léopoldville gained independence in 1960 , it collapsed into a state of anarchy within a fortnight . The large Belgian population of the Congo fled from the violence into neighbouring states , including the federation . Welensky dispatched the Royal Rhodesian Air Force ( RRAF ) to assist in their evacuation , but was prevented by the British government from entering the Congo itself . Refugees fled by foot to Ndola in Northern Rhodesia , where RRAF planes picked them up and flew them to camps in Salisbury . More than 6 @,@ 000 people were evacuated by the RRAF .

The president of Congo 's Katanga Province , Moise Tshombe , requested British and Rhodesian

forces to enter the country to restore order . Welensky was sympathetic to the situation but unable to act ; the British government , which had ultimate jurisdiction over the federation , disallowed him from mobilising the armed forces . Tshombe declared Katanga unilaterally independent on 11 July , one day after requesting British and Rhodesian assistance . Welensky pleaded with Macmillan to deploy the Rhodesian forces but Macmillan rebuffed him , telling Welensky their hopes were pinned on the United Nations being able to restore order , and hoping for a wholly neutral or anti @-@ communist Congo . United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld , hoping to negotiate a solution to Katanga 's secession , agreed to meet Tshombe at Ndola . However , Hammarskjöld 's plane crashed close to Ndola , and he was killed . Welensky was subsequently blamed for the accident throughout the communist and Afro @-@ Asian world , becoming a hated figure and a lingering symbol of colonialism . Welensky 's attitude towards Katanga and the Congo would strain relations between the federation and the British until its dissolution .

= = = Territorial and federal elections = = =

With new constitutions in place for the territories , elections were held throughout 1961 ? 62 , with Welensky 's UFP being beaten in each one . In Nyasaland , the African nationalist Malawi Congress Party won a huge majority and Banda set about lobbying the British Government for the break @-@ up of the federation and the independence of Nyasaland as Malawi . In Northern Rhodesia , neither the UFP nor the two African nationalist parties held a majority , but the African nationalists united to push for independence . Welensky hoped to get a display of confidence in federation , so he dissolved parliament in mid @-@ 1962 and held elections . While his party won a huge victory , it did so because it was completely unopposed . Neither the recently formed Rhodesian Front ( RF ) nor the African nationalist parties bothered to contest it .

In Southern Rhodesia , the UFP lost the hold that it and its successor parties had for decades in the October election . Ian Smith , a former federal member of the UFP , had united with Winston Field of the Dominion Party to form the Rhodesian Front , a conservative party that was opposed to a fast rate of African political advancement and the 1961 constitution , and in support of Southern Rhodesian independence . The RF won 55 % of the vote and 35 A @-@ roll seats , while the UFP won 44 % of the vote , 15 A @-@ roll seats and 14 B @-@ roll seats . Welensky now had parties in power in all three territorial legislatures that were opposed to the federation and advocating independence for their respective territories .

= = = Dissolution = = =

With Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia now promised independence by Britain under ' one man , one vote ' constitutions , the federation was essentially dead . Southern Rhodesia , still governed by its white minority , was subject to attacks in the United Nations general assembly which regarded its constitution as unsatisfactory . It demanded ' one man , one vote ' elections , stating that this was the only " realistic answer to the powerful and irresistible urge of the indigenous people for freedom and equality " .

Accepting the end of the federation , Welensky set about ensuring that the assets of the federal government were transferred to Southern Rhodesia , making this a condition of him attending dissolution talks at Victoria Falls . Welensky refused to dine with the British delegates , on the grounds of " not choking on his food " , but ensured that the talks went smoothly . The federation was legally dissolved on 31 December 1963 .

= = Rhodesian UDI and retirement = =

With the collapse of the federation , Welensky moved to Salisbury , Rhodesia ( renamed from Southern Rhodesia after Northern Rhodesia gained independence as Zambia ) . After a short break , he was invited to lead the UFP in Rhodesia , which had recently renamed itself the Rhodesia Party . With the Rhodesian Front pushing for independence for the territory and a new constitution , the

Rhodesia Party advocated the same , but with a focus on stemming white emigration and rebuilding the economy ( all three territories had slipped into recession with the end of the federation ) .

With the resignation of the RF member for the Salisbury constituency of Arundel , Welensky was given a chance to re-enter the political arena . Clifford Dupont , Deputy Prime Minister , resigned his constituency in Charter to oppose Welensky . Welensky knew if the RF won the byelections it would appear as a mandate for unilateral independence ; the campaign , for only two seats , was intense . At public meetings , Welensky was heckled by opponents to ironic cries of ' Communist ' , ' traitor ' , and ' coward ' . Sharing a television platform with Smith on 3 September , Welensky talked of the economic and political dangers of a UDI , but nonetheless wished Smith luck when he departed for independence talks in London . Welensky had much more antipathy for the British Government than his RF opponents , and was disgusted at their treatment of the Rhodesians during constitutional talks :

I want to remind you that I am no friend of the present Government in Rhodesia : I have opposed their policies and can be considered a political opponent . But I was as horrified as any other Rhodesian at this cavalier treatment of a country which has , since its creation , staunchly supported , in every possible way , Britain and the Commonwealth .

On 1 October Welensky was soundly defeated by his RF opponent , with 633 votes to Dupont 's 1079 . In December he resigned the leadership of his party . When the RF declared unilateral independence on 11 November 1965 , Welensky was upset at the constitutional break with Britain . He believed that Rhodesia was entitled to her independence , and disagreed with the British government 's demand for ' no independence before majority rule ' , but was opposed to illegal action .

Welensky continued living in Rhodesia until Robert Mugabe gained power and the country became Zimbabwe in 1980 . While in London in 1971 , and by then a widower , Welensky met his second wife , Valerie Scott , an organiser for the Cities of London and Westminster Conservative Association , who was some thirty years his junior . The couple relocated in 1981 to Blandford Forum , Dorset , where he died on 5 December 1991 .