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IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIVERSAL REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND OF THE SPEEDY GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES FOR THE EFFECTIVE GUARANTEE AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Report of the Secretary-General

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. In resolution 3382 (XXX) of 10 November 1975, the General Assembly, inter alia, reaffirmed the importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, to national sovereignty and territorial integrity and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples as imperatives for the enjoyment of human rights; reaffirmed the legitimacy of the peoples' struggle for independence, territorial integrity and liberation from colonial and foreign domination and alien subjugation by all available means, including armed struggle; noted with appreciation the material and other forms of assistance that peoples under colonial and alien régimes continue to receive from Governments, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and called for a maximization of that assistance; and decided to remain seized of this item at its thirty-first session on the basis of reports that Governments, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations were requested to submit concerning the strengthening of assistance to colonial Territories and peoples under alien domination and foreign subjugation.

2. The present report contains substantive replies received as at 22 July 1976 from Governments of States Members of the United Nations (sect. II), regional intergovernmental organizations (sect. III) and non-governmental organizations (sect. IV) on action taken pursuant to the above-mentioned resolution. The Governments of two Member States (Barbados and Maldives) and four non-governmental organizations (Arab Economists Union, International Alliance of Women, International Humanist and Ethical Union and Inter-Parliamentary Union) indicated that they had no information to submit.

3. Information on action taken by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations will be found in the report of the Secretary-General (A/31/65 and addenda) prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3421 (XXX) of 8 December 1975.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

AUSTRIA

Original: English

13 July 1976

The Government of Austria referred to its statement on this question contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session (A/10156/Add.1), which reflects the fundamental attitude of Austria towards the question of the importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights. As far as special actions of assistance are concerned, in 1976 Austria has contributed to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa the amount of Austrian schillings 410,000, to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa Austrian schillings 410,000, and to the United Nations Fund for Namibia Austrian schillings 190,000. Furthermore Austria has granted a one-year scholarship to Mr. Joseph Nyandoro of Zimbabwe for studies of the German language and for a course of practical work in banking.

BOTSWANA

Original: English

1 June 1976

The Government of Botswana wishes to state that it does not have any other new ideas or information to provide except to state that it will continue to co-operate with international organizations and other Governments in trying to bring freedom and independence to peoples still languishing under colonial rule.

Your Excellency may be interested to note here the efforts of the President of Botswana, together with other African leaders, aimed at bringing about majority rule in Rhodesia by peaceful means and in appealing to those members of the international community who are in a better position to do so, to provide any assistance they are capable of to the struggling masses of Zimbabwe, Namibia and other places, especially in the humanitarian sphere.

Our own country is a haven for political refugees fleeing from oppression in their own countries.

Let me once more assure Your Excellency of our co-operation in this field.

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

/Original: Russian/

/10 June 1976/

The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic interprets the concept of the "right to self-determination" as the unconditional right of any people to determine its own fate, including the choice of social and political structure, according to its freely expressed will and desire. All peoples possess the right of self-determination, whether or not they have achieved statehood. The principle of equality and self-determination of peoples is enshrined in a number of extremely important international documents, including inter alia the United Nations Charter and the International Covenants on Human Rights. Consequently, the denial of self-determination to a people is a flagrant violation of one of the fundamental principles of international law.

The Byelorussian SSR is deeply appreciative of the fact that the United Nations has prepared and adopted a number of important documents establishing the legal character of the principle of the right of peoples to self-determination. This was given its fullest expression in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. As was stated in General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV), "the Declaration has played and will continue to play an important role in assisting the peoples under colonial domination in their struggle for freedom and independence".

The great importance of the principle of the right to self-determination for effectively guaranteeing and ensuring respect for human rights is confirmed in particular by the fact that article 1 of each of the International Covenants on Human Rights reasserts the right of all peoples to self-determination.

The Byelorussian SSR attaches great importance to the universal and effective implementation of the right of peoples to self-determination as an important condition for progressive social and economic development. The successes of the Byelorussian SSR in the social, economic and political fields have been due in large measure to a genuine and consistent implementation of the concept of the right of nations to self-determination, as formulated by V. I. Lenin, founder of the Soviet State. The experience and achievements of the Byelorussian SSR in this field demonstrate convincingly that the effective implementation of the right to self-determination is one of the indispensable conditions for the economic, social and cultural progress of peoples.

The Byelorussian SSR feels that the term "peoples under colonial and foreign domination" denotes peoples, countries and territories which have been deprived of political and economic independence or are occupied as the result of armed aggression. A colonial régime means enslavement and exploitation by means of the military, political and economic coercion of peoples, countries and territories. Guided by the well-known provisions of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, especially the assertion that "the continued existence of colonialism prevents the development of international,

economic co-operation, impedes the social, cultural and economic development of dependent peoples and militates against the United Nations ideal of universal peace", the Byelorussian SSR gives its unswerving support to the just support for independence of peoples living under colonial oppression.

The Byelorussian SSR is guided in its policy by the goal, set at the Twenty-fifth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, of completely eliminating "all remnants of the system of colonial repression, the infringement of the equality and independence of peoples, and all breeding grounds of colonialism and racism". The Byelorussian SSR consistently and firmly advocates immediate and full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and will continue to support decisive and effective measures aimed at hastening the elimination of the remnants of colonialism, racism and apartheid. The Byelorussian SSR will continue as before to offer its unswerving support to the struggle of the Arab peoples to undo the results of Israeli aggression and to give the Arab people of Palestine a chance to create its own national State.

The changes for the better which have taken place in the international situation in recent years, and especially the reduction of international tension, are having favourable effects on the course of the oppressed nations' struggle for liberation. The collapse of the Portuguese colonial empire and the emergence of new sovereign States constituted an important milestone in the struggle for the complete and definitive elimination of colonial slavery on the African continent.

Nevertheless, the existence in southern Africa of the racist and colonial régimes of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia poses a threat to peace and security in that region and a challenge to the entire international community. Flouting the many United Nations resolutions condemning apartheid and racism as crimes against humanity, the ruling circles of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, with the support of foreign monopolies, persist in their policy of racial discrimination and oppression. The Byelorussian SSR supports the demands to put an end to the Vorster régime's illegal occupation of the Territory of Namibia and to grant the people of that country the opportunity to determine its own fate independently. The Byelorussian SSR also expresses its solidarity with the just struggle of the people of Zimbabwe for self-determination and favours the earliest solution of this question on the basis of well-known United Nations resolutions and in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

The Byelorussian SSR is prepared to continue in the future to offer every kind of support to peoples struggling against colonialism and racism and to support United Nations decisions aimed at the earliest implementation of the rights of colonial peoples to self-determination and respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of people everywhere. That policy of the Byelorussian SSR is a long-established position of principle. As L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, emphasized in the report of the Central Committee at the Twenty-fifth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, "respect for the sacred right of each people, of each country, to choose its own path of development is a firm principle of Leninist foreign policy".

CYPRUS

/Original: English/  
/13 July 1976/

The Government and people of Cyprus have always strongly supported the struggle of peoples and countries under foreign domination for liberation and self-determination.

Cyprus has always, at various forums in international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and conferences and particularly in the United Nations General Assembly, consistently shown its adherence to the rights of peoples for self-determination and has faithfully implemented the relevant principles and its stand by practical means and measures, such as financial assistance to United Nations and other programmes destined for peoples struggling for their independence and self-determination.

On the occasion of this report, the Republic of Cyprus wishes to reiterate its consistent stand and efforts for the effective guarantee of human rights, which by itself is the mainstay of freedom and self-determination, being itself victim of foreign occupation having 40 per cent of its territory occupied by Turkey with the further result of a forcibly uprooted population of 200,000 whose very basic human rights have been trampled upon and are being violated in the most flagrant way. In addition and as a result of this occupation, the area of the Republic of Cyprus occupied by the foreign Power has been colonized by Turkey at the expense of the rights of the indigenous Cypriot people, both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot.

FINLAND

/Original: English/  
/22 June 1976/

The Government of Finland recognizes the heavy responsibility which the United Nations has in the field of decolonization and is deeply aware of the fact that southern Africa still remains an area of tension which endangers sound and harmonious development in Africa and also in the world as a whole.

It has been most encouraging that within the United Nations the elimination of colonialism in southern Africa has gained wide support. The Government of Finland recalls the unanimous resolutions which the Security Council adopted earlier this year on the question of Namibia and of assistance to Mozambique for the implementation of the sanctions against Southern Rhodesia. It has become evident that practically the whole world community supports majority rule and racial harmony in southern Africa. The common and urgent responsibility of the United Nations is to make the white minority régimes realize that in order to secure the peaceful transition of political power from white minorities to the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia there has to be a speedy and total acceptance by them of the principles of racial harmony, self-determination and independence.

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It is well known that the people and Government of Finland oppose firmly the policy of apartheid practised by the Government of South Africa. Finland rejects any form of racial discrimination which affronts our sense of justice and is incompatible with our concept of human rights based on the equality of every individual. The elimination of apartheid in South Africa must therefore be one of the central objectives of the United Nations as long as the problem prevails.

The practically unanimous condemnation of apartheid that has emanated in the debates and resolutions of United Nations organs is of vital importance for the development and maintenance of conscious world public opinion against this institutionalized racial discrimination. It is therefore vital that reliable information on the subject is produced continuously in order to influence basic attitudes. With this in mind the Government of Finland was in 1975 the first contributor to the Unit on Apartheid Trust Fund established by the Secretary-General. Finland intends to continue its contributions to the Fund.

The international campaign against apartheid in sports is also a factor which widely affects world public opinion. Some propaganda efforts of the Government of South Africa have not been in accordance with the non-discriminatory Olympic principle. Even though the sports organizations in Finland are private bodies, they have been requested by the Government to take into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2775 (XXVI) in favour of which Finland voted. A committee consisting of the representatives of the Government and sports organizations in Finland was established to discuss questions concerning international sports relations. This arrangement has led to a situation in which the sports contacts between Finnish and racially selected South African teams have decreased to a non-existing level.

The Government of Finland has supported the international humanitarian actions taken for the defence of victims of apartheid. Finland has contributed annually to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and will continue to do so. The United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa is equally indispensable in offering to the oppressed peoples of the region some of the opportunities otherwise denied to them. This year Finland has contributed \$US 78,000 to both the Trust Fund and the Educational and Training Programme, and the contributions will be continued. Furthermore, Finland has granted a contribution of \$US 26,000 to the United Nations Fund for Namibia this year.

The Government of Finland realizes that the institutional repression and the persistent denial of fundamental rights to the vast majority of the population practised by the Government of South Africa has led to the organizing of the liberation movements to strike against racial discrimination and injustice. Accordingly, Finland has channelled again this year \$US 38,000 for humanitarian assistance through the OAU Assistance Fund for the Struggle against Colonialism and Apartheid.

Finland has always considered Namibia a special test case for the United Nations. So far the United Nations has been unable to practise its direct responsibility over this territory and South Africa continues its illegal occupation.



The Security Council has once again in January this year condemned the illegal occupation and declared, inter alia, that free elections under the supervision and control of the United Nations should be held for the whole of Namibia as one political entity.

Finland has long-standing special ties with the Namibian people. The Government of Finland has been active in various United Nations forums, including the United Nations Council for Namibia and the Senate of the United Nations Institute for Namibia, in seeking to advance the cause of independence of the Namibian people. The Government of Finland has also been in close co-operation with the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), which Finland has been supporting morally and materially by extending humanitarian assistance to Namibians. Last January, a group of 22 Namibian students started their studies in Finnish universities.

## GREECE

/Original: French/

/25 June 1976/

The Greek Government, aware of the fact that without implementation of the right to self-determination the enjoyment of other human rights becomes illusory, has always been and remains devoted to the principle of the strictest respect for the right of peoples to self-determination.

Guided by this spirit, Greece has always contributed, in its voting and its statements, to the adoption by the competent bodies of the United Nations of the various resolutions relating to the implementation of this right and has promptly recognized new States established as a result of decolonization, even when recognizing them was a matter of international controversy. Domestically, Greek legislation is guided by the same principle and seeks to adjust the internal order to the requirements of its effective implementation. Lastly, on the practical level, the Permanent Representative wishes to emphasize that the Greek Government has granted a large number of scholarships to students from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

## IRAN

/Original: English/

/10 June 1976/

The Iranian Government, in pursuance of its national policy and in line with the principles of the United Nations Charter, has always vigorously supported the right of colonial people to self-determination, and has constantly opposed apartheid and all other forms of racial discrimination. Within the framework of this same policy, it has contributed to the Assistance Fund of the Organization of African Unity for the Struggle against Colonialism and Apartheid, as well as to other funds established by the United Nations for southern Africa. It has, through these contributions, given continuous assistance to colonial people.

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KUWAIT

/Original: English/

/31 May 1976/

The position of the Government of the State of Kuwait regarding the rights of peoples under colonial and foreign domination to self-determination is fundamental and constant. The State of Kuwait has made its position clear more than once and it firmly supports the decisions and principles of General Assembly resolution 2382 (XXX), which reasserts the rights of peoples under colonial and foreign domination to self-determination, freedom and independence.

On several occasions, the State of Kuwait has firmly opposed and denounced the policies of colonialism in its different manifestations and has spared no effort, on national and international levels, to support all the attempts made by the United Nations with a view to eliminating colonialism and foreign occupation.

The State of Kuwait has never hesitated in supplying moral and material support to colonial peoples who struggle for the realization of their full and inalienable rights to self-determination and independence.

The State of Kuwait has also supplied assistance to newly independent countries to help them face the aftermath of colonialism.

ROMANIA

/Original: French/  
/12 July 1976/

The Socialist Republic of Romania believes that one of the essential conditions for the observance of human rights is universal and effective respect for the right of every people to existence, independence and freedom and the right to choose its own path of development, in accordance with its fundamental aspirations for progress and prosperity. Romania has repeatedly emphasized that, now more than ever, respect for the right of every people to independence and freedom is a necessary condition for the creation of a climate of peace and international co-operation and for the building of new relations based on equality, equity and mutual respect among all the peoples of the world. The international life of today brings to the fore the need for the entire world community to intensify its efforts to bring about the total abolition of colonialism, neo-colonialism and all forms of domination and oppression of other nations and to enable all the peoples of the world to gain national independence and to achieve their sovereign economic and social development.

The right of peoples to self-determination, which received practical and universal recognition through the adoption in 1960 of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, is affirmed in all the continents of the world. Nowadays the affirmation of that right assumes new dimensions, being closely linked with the right of each people freely to choose the path of its economic and social development, to use its physical and human resources in accordance with its interests and to make new advances in the development of the economy, science and culture.

Romania has consistently supported the struggle of peoples to achieve their freedom from colonial domination and to accede to genuine political and economic independence.

At the same time, it has resolutely denounced the neo-colonialist policy of racial discrimination and apartheid, which impedes the exercise of the legitimate right to self-determination and independence and, at the same time, constitutes one of the most brutal forms of violation of human rights. The Programme of the Romanian Communist Party for the construction of a socialist society characterized by multilateral development and for Romania's advance towards communism makes it clear that Romania will base its co-operation and solidarity with States striving for independent development in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism on "respect for the right of each people to be the absolute master of its destiny, to build its future in accordance with its wishes. That solidarity is aimed at strengthening the independence and sovereignty of each State. We shall actively support the efforts of all peoples and national liberation movements to combat foreign domination and to attain freedom and independence".

The Romanian people has given and will continue to give all its political, diplomatic, moral and material support to the national liberation movements and to

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States which have recently attained national independence, as an expression of militant solidarity with peoples striving to affirm their right to free existence and independence.

During the meetings which President Nicolae Ceaușescu held with representatives of the national liberation movements and newly independent States, emphasis was placed on the nature of Romania's position, which consistently supports the right of every people to independence, and on the need for the urgent abolition of the last vestiges of the colonial system. President Nicolae Ceaușescu recently indicated that "Romania is linked to those countries by common aspirations for progress and prosperity and by the struggle to abolish the iniquitous policy of the past and to foster new relations of equality among States".

Romania's support to those peoples receives practical expression in its relations with the aforementioned countries and with the national liberation movements, as well as in the United Nations and other international organizations.

Romania actively supported the struggle of the liberation movements of Mozambique, Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe and the Cape Verde Islands for the attainment of independence by the peoples of those countries, welcoming their victory and immediately establishing diplomatic relations with the new States.

During 1975 and 1976, governmental delegations from the newly independent countries visited Romania, and Romanian delegations visited those States. On those occasions, important political, diplomatic, legal and economic documents were signed which embodied the principles that should govern relations among States, and emphasis was placed on the determination of each country to strive to ensure respect of the right of peoples to independence and to intensify its support to the national liberation movements of the Territories still in a state of dependent status.

Romania has made determined efforts, and will continue to do so in the future, to develop its co-operation at various levels with newly independent countries, thereby supporting the development of the economy, science and culture of the young States. Some 4,000 young people from African countries are currently pursuing university studies or receiving specialized training in Romania. At the same time, during the current year over 12,000 Romanian specialists are engaged in activities in a number of young African States, contributing to the construction of economic units, the training of supervisory staff, the improvement of medical assistance and the like.

Romania has also granted those States substantial aid in the form of food, medicine and other supplies, in order to help them overcome the economic difficulties stemming from the state of under-development to which they were condemned for centuries by colonial exploitation.

Romania does not recognize the racist régimes of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia and maintains no relations of any kind with them, thus strictly applying the relevant United Nations resolutions. It condemns the continuation of the illegal occupation of Namibia by the South African racist régime and supports the adoption of vigorous measures designed to grant independence to that Territory.

Romania takes the view that, today, when it is increasingly necessary to establish international relations founded on respect for the inalienable rights of peoples, firm measures must be adopted to support the population that is subjugated and exploited by the South African racist régime. To that end, at the Security Council meeting convened after the bloody events which took place in the Republic of South Africa our country adopted a clear and firm position by condemning the crimes committed by the racist régime of that country, which constituted flagrant violations of basic human rights, and by expressing its solidarity with the struggle of the South African people to eradicate apartheid and to achieve national emancipation.

In the United Nations, Romania has repeatedly advocated the adoption of effective measures that would help to abolish colonialism and neo-colonialism and all the practices which those policies have engendered in international life. Thus, the document relating to Romania's position on the improvement and democratization of the activities of the United Nations (A/C.6/437 of 3 November 1975) emphasized that "a fundamental requirement of our time is the final liquidation of colonialism and neo-colonialism, racism and apartheid ...".

In that connexion, Romania proposes in the above-mentioned document that "the Charter must clearly proclaim the full and final abolition of colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism, and the determination of all States Members of the United Nations and of the international community as a whole to eliminate all practices engendered by the above-mentioned systems". In Romania's view, the United Nations Charter must forcefully proclaim the fundamental right of all peoples to be masters of their own destiny, to exercise permanent sovereignty over their natural resources, to realize fully their material and human potential, and to determine their own destiny freely, in accordance with their aspirations and interests.

Through its policy, Romania respects and consistently implements the resolutions of the United Nations, including General Assembly resolution 3382 (XXX) concerning the importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, thereby contributing to the complete and final abolition of colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism.

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

/Original: Russian/

/6 July 1976/

The Ukrainian SSR has recognized and continues to recognize the right of peoples to self-determination, and consistently supports the legitimate aspirations of colonial countries and peoples to attain independence and to be able to exercise sovereign rights over their natural resources.

On the basis of that position, the Ukrainian SSR is participating in international activities aimed at the speedy and total eradication of the vestiges of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations. In particular, during consideration by the United Nations and other international organizations of questions relating to the right of peoples to self-determination, the Ukrainian SSR always supports and itself initiates or co-sponsors resolutions and decisions which promote the speedy implementation of the provisions of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Firmly supporting the legitimate struggle of the peoples of the world against colonialism and neo-colonialism, the Ukrainian SSR condemns the policy of those imperialist NATO member States and other countries which are furnishing military, economic, political and other support to the racist régimes of southern Africa, thereby encouraging the racists to suppress aspirations for the self-determination and independence of Namibia and Zimbabwe and other countries and peoples of the African continent.

The delegation of the Ukrainian SSR participates in the work of the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid, actively supporting measures to mobilize world public opinion in the struggle against the ideology and practice of apartheid, one of the tools of colonial oppression. Thus, representatives of the Ukrainian SSR participated in the work of the International Seminar on the Eradication of Apartheid and in Support of the Struggle for Liberation in South Africa, held in May 1976 at Havana, capital of the Republic of Cuba.

The Ukrainian SSR also participates in the work of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, in which it calls for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all Arab territories occupied by Israel in 1967 and for safeguarding of the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including its inalienable right to found its own State.

In addition to the participation of the Ukrainian SSR in international action, various activities devoted to the struggle of peoples to achieve self-determination and to end colonialism and racial discrimination are regularly undertaken within the Republic. In May 1976, Africa Liberation Day and the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Southern Africa were observed. A meeting of representatives of public opinion in the capital of the Ukrainian SSR was held to commemorate those occasions. Various aspects of the national liberation struggle of the peoples of the world are continually given coverage in the mass media.

The Ukrainian SSR believes that the trend towards a relaxation of international tension is helping to create real opportunities for accelerating the process of national and social liberation and the further consolidation of all anti-colonialist forces to combat imperialism, neo-colonialism and reaction. With that in view, the Ukrainian SSR will continue to support the adoption of effective measures aimed at the total elimination of the vestiges of colonialism, racism and apartheid.

III. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

/Original: English/

/21 May 1976/

The Council of Europe has not had occasion to take any action on the question of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

/Original: English/

/17 May 1976/

Since the subject-matter of this resolution refers basically to countries outside of the scope of the Organization of American States, the General Secretariat has no information to furnish in this regard.



IV. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLES' SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION

/Original: English/

/6 July 1976/

The Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization has been consistently helping the international liberation movements morally, politically and materially as one of the non-governmental organizations; AAPSO has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. We have been furthering the observance of the United Nations resolutions in the field of human rights by organizing conferences, seminars and issues of publications in support of the suppressed peoples.

In the recent period, we have supported the struggle of the Angolan people and organized an international solidarity conference in Luanda. Since its inception AAPSO has been consistently supporting the people of Palestine, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Namibia in various ways, especially in regard to the defence of human rights.

Our publications state our views as well as information on the activities of our organization in support of the people struggling for their legitimate rights.

We have been receiving in our office leaders of national liberation movements and we have been sending delegations to international conferences in support of the rights of the peoples of Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

/Original: English/

/28 June 1976/

Southern Rhodesia

Amnesty International's concern over the deepening political crisis in Southern Rhodesia, and its consequent effect upon human rights, was reflected by two campaigns in which Amnesty International groups participated during the year and by the publication, in March 1976, of an Amnesty International Briefing on Rhodesia/Zimbabwe. On 11 November 1975 - the tenth anniversary of UDI - Amnesty International groups called on the Rhodesian Front régime to mark the anniversary by granting a general amnesty for all political prisoners. In a message to Mr. Smith, the Secretary-General of Amnesty International, Martin Ennals, stated that the granting of such an amnesty would be seen as an indication of the régime's desire to achieve a just and equitable settlement of the constitutional issue. Regrettably, no such amnesty was granted and the numbers of people detained or imprisoned on political grounds have continued to rise since November 1975.

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Amnesty International groups made new approaches to the Smith régime in April 1976, this time concerning the use of the death penalty in Rhodesia. Reminding the régime that all executions had been carried out in secret since April 1975, Amnesty International groups appealed for an immediate end to the use of the death penalty in Rhodesia and a complete revision of the legislation under which it is imposed. In a letter to the British Government, which theoretically retains legal responsibility for Rhodesia, Amnesty International asked that Queen Elizabeth II should be advised to grant reprieves to all prisoners under sentence of death in Rhodesia.

The use of the death penalty, which may be applied for a wide range of political as well as certain criminal offences, was one aspect of the Rhodesian situation criticized in the Amnesty International briefing paper. This report also expressed concern at the holding of political trials and detention review tribunals in camera and condemned the continuing use of torture and the Government's refusal to arrange an inquiry into alleged atrocities committed by Rhodesian security forces. Referring to the Smith régime's use of detention without trial and other restrictive measures to repress African political opposition, the briefing paper stated that the number of uncharged political detainees had doubled during 1975 to more than 700.

The briefing paper drew attention also to the forced settlement of large numbers of rural Africans in so-called "protected villages" as part of the Smith Government's counter-insurgency policy. Reportedly numbering more than 100,000, the inhabitants of "protected villages" live under conditions of curfew in fenced and fortified encampments which they themselves call "cages". Amnesty International has provided relief assistance for people in "protected villages", where health and sanitation conditions are reportedly unsatisfactory. It is also preparing a scheme whereby Amnesty International groups will be asked to "adopt" certain Tribal Trust Lands containing "protected villages".

At the present time, more than 300 political detainees are "adopted" on an individual basis by Amnesty International groups located throughout the world. The groups campaign for the release of all detainees and attempt to provide them and their families with the financial and material assistance that they require. During the past year, the total amount sent by Amnesty groups for prisoners in Rhodesia was more than £15,000. In addition, Amnesty International provided another £10,000 for relief, rehabilitation and legal assistance in Southern Rhodesia.

Copies of Amnesty International press statements, briefing documentation and the briefing paper on Rhodesia/Zimbabwe are attached. 1/

#### Namibia

Following the assassination of Chief Filemon Elifas in August 1975, Amnesty International took up the cases of six people charged under the Terrorism Act in connexion with his murder. Their trial commenced at Swakopmund in February 1976. Amnesty also "adopted" several other supporters of the South West Africa People's

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1/ These documents are with the Secretariat and may be consulted upon request. /...

Organization (SWAPO) and the Namibia National Convention (NNC) who were detained under section 6 of the Terrorism Act.

In March 1976, Dr. Otto Triffterer, professor of international criminal law at Giessen University in the Federal Republic of Germany, visited Namibia on behalf of Amnesty International in order to observe the proceedings at the Swakopmund trial. Professor Triffterer also discussed the situation of the remaining detainees with various political leaders in Namibia.

On 12 May, following the imposition of the death penalty on Hendrik Shikongo and Aaron Mushimba, two of the defendants at the Swakopmund trial, Amnesty International cabled South African Prime Minister John Vorster urging him to exercise clemency. Amnesty International also cabled the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kurt Waldheim, and the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia, Sean MacBride, requesting their immediate intervention with the South African Government to prevent the executions. A press statement issued by Amnesty International on 12 May is attached. 1/

We also attach a copy of A List of Namibian Political Prisoners, which was prepared by Amnesty International in December 1975 and made available to the participants at the Dakar international conference on Namibia and human rights. 1/ This conference, which was organized by the International Institute of Human Rights, was attended by Hans Ehrenstrale, the Deputy Secretary-General of Amnesty International.

### South Africa

During the past year, Amnesty International's work in South Africa has been concerned primarily with individuals who have been imprisoned, banned or "banished" because of their opposition to the apartheid policies of the Vorster Government. At the present time, more than 150 people in South Africa are "adopted" by Amnesty International groups. Amnesty has also assisted a number of former prisoners and political refugees.

Although Amnesty's work for banned and banished people continued throughout the year, the Terrorism Act provided the focus of our activities. Since September 1974, more than 250 people have been detained without charge for substantial periods of time in South Africa. They include members of organizations supporting the "black consciousness" movement as well as a number of former political prisoners, trade unionists and white student radicals. Amnesty International has attempted to document all detentions and assist the dependants of those detained. The organization has also taken a close interest in the series of major political trials that have occurred since the beginning of 1975. In February 1976, Amnesty sent Charles T. Duncan, Dean of the Howard University Law School in Washington D.C., to Pretoria in order to observe the proceedings at the trial of nine leaders of the South African Students Organization (SASO) and the Black Peoples' Convention (BPC). Dean Duncan was present in court during argument of a defence application to quash the Terrorism Act charges against the defendants. This application was unsuccessful and the trial, which commenced in April 1975, is

still in progress to this day. Amnesty also took up the cases of a number of other people charged under the Terrorism and Suppression of Communism Acts, including Raymond Suttner, Eric Molobi, Bernard Bloem and the seven members of the National Youth Organization (NAYO) whose trial concluded in May 1976.

Throughout the year, Amnesty International has provided relief and rehabilitation assistance amounting to more than £10,000 to prisoners of conscience, former prisoners of conscience, and their dependants in South Africa.

In May 1976, an Amnesty International delegate attended the international seminar organized by the Special Committee against Apartheid, which was held in Havana, Cuba. Various Amnesty International documents relating to human rights violations in southern Africa were made available to participants at that seminar. At the present time, Amnesty is also preparing evidence concerning human rights violations to be submitted to the United Nations Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts, and information to be presented to the participants in the non-governmental organization Symposium on the Situation of Political Prisoners in Southern Africa, which is to be held at Geneva during July.

Amnesty International aims to create a greater international awareness of the human rights situation in southern Africa through the medium of such conferences and seminars, and also by publishing relevant information either in the form of reports like the Briefing Paper on Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, in general background papers, in press statements, and by way of this organization's own newsletter.

ARAB LAWYERS UNION

/Original: French/

/14 June 1976/

We are pleased to note that the question of the right of people to self-determination and independence is being submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session. We are prepared to implement any measure that might assist in achieving the lofty aims of the General Assembly.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

/Original: English/

/20 July 1976/

In a resolution adopted in September 1975, 2/ the Central Committee of the International Co-operative Alliance noted with satisfaction the unanimous approval

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2/ A number of other pertinent resolutions were attached to the reply.

by the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe of the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States, which contained, inter alia, principles on the equal rights and self-determination of peoples.

PAN-AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT

/Original: English/

/16 June 1976/

Our association, which has been for the past 12 years engaged in training and research for rural development in about 32 African countries south of the Sahara (both English and French-speaking) has always been concerned also with extending its assistance to "colonial territories and people under alien domination".

Thus, we have received in the past some students from Angola and we are now opening all our activities to personnel from Territories such as Namibia and Zimbabwe. We are also in close touch with the Organization of African Unity with a view to working out in due course suitable arrangements for the intake of staff from these Territories.

UNITED TOWNS ORGANISATION

/Original: French/

Since that resolution was adopted on 10 November 1975, it is hardly possible to assess its effect less than six months later. Through continuing activities within our whole programme of intercommunal co-operation, we are working resolutely in support of the right of peoples to self-determination and independence and of respect for and an effective guarantee of human rights.

We are keenly interested in knowing what the United Nations has accomplished in the particular area covered by the resolution. This exchange of information is needed in order that we may better harmonize our actions.

Lastly, we particularly wish to know what assistance the United Nations itself can furnish in support of our efforts, with a view to attaining its own objectives through the direct, effective and economical means of the specialized non-governmental organizations.

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