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LETTER DATED 16 NOVEMBER 1965 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE USSR ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I would request you to have the attached Statement by the USSR Government concerning the situation in Southern Rhodesia circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) N. FEDORENKO
Permanent Representative of the
USSR to the United Nations

Statement by the USSR Government concerning the situation
in Southern Rhodesia

The colonialists have committed a fresh crime against the peoples of Africa. On 11 November, the racist régime of Ian Smith proclaimed the "independence" of Southern Rhodesia. This act is aimed at perpetuating in Southern Rhodesia a colonial order based on the inhuman oppression of the 4 million people of Zimbabwe by a handful of racists and on the ruthless suppression of the just struggle of the Zimbabwe people for genuine independence, freedom and social justice. Colonialists and racists have made yet another attempt to fortify the bastion of colonialism and racism in the south of the African continent.

The transformation of Southern Rhodesia into an "independent" State of white racists represents an open challenge by colonialism to the people of that country, who for many years have been waging a valiant struggle for freedom and independence, a challenge to the peoples of Africa and of the entire world. The colonialists have flouted the will of the peoples expressed in the historic United Nations Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples and in the numerous resolutions of the United Nations condemning the actions of the Southern Rhodesian racists and demanding the granting of genuine independence to the Zimbabwe people.

The racists of Southern Rhodesia would not have ventured to put their criminal plan into execution were it not for the collusion of the colonialists who enabled the Salisbury racist régime to gather economic and military strength in recent years and who have lent it support of every kind. Neither could this crime have been perpetrated without the blessing of the Governments of other NATO countries, primarily the United States of America. The creation of yet another hotbed of racism - this time in Southern Rhodesia - is part of the general plan of imperialist circles to hold back the national liberation movement of African peoples, a movement whose waves are sweeping ever closer to the last remaining bulwarks of colonialism.

The USSR Government fully shares the view of the independent African States, stated in the resolutions of the Organization of African Unity, that the ruling circles in the United Kingdom can never free themselves of responsibility for

this crime against African peoples and for the national tragedy of the Zimbabwe people who have been waging a long and stubborn struggle for their rights.

At present the Government of the United Kingdom condemns in words the acts of the Southern Rhodesian authorities and asks that the Security Council should consider the question of Southern Rhodesia. But it is clear that these statements of the United Kingdom Government are nothing more than an attempt to whitewash its actual policy.

In 1961, when it put into effect the "constitution" consolidating the racist order - a constitution drawn up by the United Kingdom Government itself - the United Kingdom laid the foundation for the present régime of racist colonial rule over millions of Africans. It next armed the Southern Rhodesian racists and helped them to strengthen their position, encouraging a colonial alliance of Southern Rhodesia with the racist régime in the Republic of South Africa and the Portuguese colonialists in Angola and Mozambique. As a consequence, Southern Rhodesia was transformed into a police State, a land of prisons, concentration camps and terror for the country's African people.

The racist régime of Southern Rhodesia is also a source of danger to all other African peoples, including those that have now freed themselves from colonial oppression. It is a bayonet pointed at the heart of liberated Africa, a constant threat to peace in the African continent, a threat to international peace.

The proclamation of Southern Rhodesia's "independence" by the racists has called forth a wave of protests throughout the world. One country after another has declared its non-recognition of the criminal Smith régime. On 11 November, the United Nations General Assembly condemned this act of the Southern Rhodesian authorities and invited the United Kingdom to take immediately all necessary steps, including the use of armed force, in order to put an end to the actions of this handful of racists who have overreached themselves and to transfer power to a government truly expressing the will of the Zimbabwe people. On the following day, the Security Council called upon all countries, as a matter of urgent importance, not to recognize the illegal racist régime in Southern Rhodesia and not to render it any assistance.

The USSR Government, in accordance with its position of principle in matters relating to the abolition of colonialism, emphatically condemns this latest crime

against African peoples and declares that it does not recognize the racist régime which has usurped power in Southern Rhodesia. The Soviet Union fully endorses the resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly on the situation in Southern Rhodesia and will scrupulously comply with them.

True to its steadfast policy of support for the national liberation movement of peoples, the USSR Government declares its full solidarity with the Zimbabwe people and reaffirms its readiness to co-operate with African countries in providing that people with every form of support in the just fight for genuine national independence.

15 November 1965

