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QUESTION OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA

Note verbale dated 4 October 1976 from the Permanent
Representative of Ghana to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to request that the following statement made by the Government of Ghana on the Anglo-American proposals for majority rule in Zimbabwe be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 86:

"The Government of the Supreme Military Council welcomes the latest effort of the United States Secretary of State to find a solution to the problem of Zimbabwe but regrets that it led to no more than a conditional acceptance of the principle of majority rule by the rebel minority régime.

"As the price of its acceptance of eventual majority rule, the rebel régime has put forward the demand that sanctions be lifted and the armed struggle ended before the transition to full majority rule is complete. The Government of the Supreme Military Council is opposed to any relaxation of the pressures on the minority régime before effective power in Zimbabwe is actually and irrevocably handed over to the majority, that is, handed over without any possibility of constitutional retrogression. The Government does not believe that it would be in the interests of the people of Zimbabwe to lift sanctions or terminate the armed struggle of the Zimbabwe nationalists as long as the conditions which necessitated those measures still exist, in other words, as long as the usurpation and retention by the rebels of the substance of supreme power still continues in any shape or form.

"One example of this is the rebel régime's insistence that it should retain sole responsibility for defence and internal security during the transitional period while sanctions are lifted and the armed struggle halted. The Government of the Supreme Military Council takes the view that the lifting of sanctions could not be considered unless the unilateral declaration of independence should cease to apply and sovereignty in the territory in fact

as well as in law clearly reverted to the administering Power or possibly to the United Nations as trustee during a brief period of transition to full majority rule.

"Until such conditions are fulfilled or until effective power passes irreversibly to the majority of the Zimbabwe people, the Government of the Supreme Military Council will continue to commit its full support to the armed struggle and to oppose any attempt to lift sanctions."
