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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Letter dated 22 November 1965 from the Permanent Representative
of Albania addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the attached copy of the statement of the Government of the People's Republic of Albania, dated 16 November 1965, on the situation in Southern Rhodesia.

I request you to have the text of this statement circulated to all States Members of the Organization as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Signed) Halim BUDO
Permanent Representative of the
People's Republic of Albania
to the United Nations

* Also circulated as document S/6972.

STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF ALBANIA ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA

On 11 November this year, the colonialist authorities in Southern Rhodesia illegally and unilaterally proclaimed the "independence" of Southern Rhodesia, placing all power in the hands of the white, racist minority. This step is a further act of colonialism, a serious provocation against the African people of Southern Rhodesia and the freedom of the peoples of Africa, and a challenge to the peace-loving countries and peoples of the whole world.

The Government of the People's Republic of Albania most vehemently condemns this arbitrary and provocative act by the racist group of Ian Smith and the British imperialists, who are seeking in this way to perpetuate the colonialist yoke over the unfortunate African population of Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).

The Albanian people and its Government have always followed the just struggle for liberation of the Zimbabwe people with sympathy and unreservedly supported it; and at the present session of the United Nations General Assembly the Albanian delegation, in solidarity with the Zimbabwe people and the countries of Africa, fully supported the resolutions submitted by those countries; it vigorously condemned the plans and intrigues of the colonialist Powers and the instruments they use for manoeuvring in Southern Rhodesia, racial discrimination, persecution and savage terrorization by a handful of white racists against 4 million Africans. It called for the immediate release of political detainees, democratic freedom and complete political equality for the indigenous population; it firmly supported the right of the Zimbabwe people to accede to national independence at any price, even by means of force.

The Albanian people, like the peoples of Africa and of the whole world, heard with a deep sense of outrage the news of the proclamation of the bogus independence of Southern Rhodesia by a handful of white racists, supported and encouraged in their action by the United Kingdom Government, which as a colonial Power is principally responsible for the acts of the racist "Government" of Southern Rhodesia.

British imperialism and international imperialism, which have important interests in Southern Rhodesia, are attempting to turn that country into a

colonialist bridgehead in Africa, directed against the struggle for liberation of the oppressed African peoples and against the independent African States; and associated in this new crime against the Zimbabwe people are various imperialist and colonialist Powers, led by the United States imperialists, who are the worst enemies of the freedom of the peoples of Africa and of the whole world, and who are trying to get Southern Rhodesia in their colonialist clutches. By their words, the United States and the other colonialist Powers pretend to deplore the situation which has arisen in Southern Rhodesia, but in practice they are supporting the white racists and the United Kingdom Government. Thus, when on 5 November 1965 in the United Nations General Assembly an overwhelming majority of Member States, including the People's Republic of Albania, denounced the domination of the white racists and the United Kingdom in Southern Rhodesia and reaffirmed the legitimacy of the struggle of the Zimbabwe people for freedom and national independence, the United States and their partners members of NATO and others, voted against the resolution submitted by the Afro-Asian countries, thereby openly taking the part of the British imperialists and Smith's racist group.

The African people of Southern Rhodesia knows its age-old enemies, the racist colonialists and imperialists, only too well, and therefore it does not expect its salvation to come from that quarter or from the so-called "United Nations forces", which can only be tools of the imperialists and colonialists acting against the people eager to gain their freedom. The Zimbabwe people will meet the new and dangerous situation by relying primarily on its own forces and on the active solidarity of its brothers, the peoples of Africa and all freedom-loving peoples throughout the world. It is fighting for a just cause which enjoys the backing of all peace-loving countries and peoples.

The Albanian people reaffirms its solidarity with the Zimbabwe people, and together with the freedom-loving peoples of Africa and of the whole world protests strongly and indignantly against the new colonialist plot hatched in Southern Rhodesia. It calls for an immediate end to the intolerable situation created by the white racists and the United Kingdom Government in Southern Rhodesia, and recognition of the rights of the Zimbabwe people to self-determination, freedom and national independence.

The Government of the People's Republic of Albania declares that it does not and will not recognize the reactionary Smith "Government", that it has not established and will not establish any relations with it, and that it will resolutely support the just struggle of the Zimbabwe people against imperialism and colonialism; and it expresses its profound conviction that the Zimbabwe people will emerge victorious in this just struggle.

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

Tirana, 16 November 1965
