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LETTER DATED 12 DECEMBER 1979 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, on instructions from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, to inform Your Excellency that the Southern Rhodesia Constitution (Interim Provisions) Order 1979, providing for the assumption of full legislative and executive authority over Southern Rhodesia by a British Governor, was made on 3 December 1979. The Governor has assumed his functions in Salisbury today and his authority has been accepted by the commanders of the military and police forces and the leading civil authorities there. Accordingly, the state of rebellion in the territory has been brought to an end.

The action which has been taken to restore Rhodesia to legality is action undertaken in the exercise of the responsibility as administering Power which the Security Council has repeatedly acknowledged as falling uniquely upon the United Kingdom. It will enable the final arrangements for the implementation of a cease-fire to be put into effect. These arrangements are being worked out in the final stage of the Constitutional Conference at Lancaster House, which was preceded by a long period of consultation. Members of the Security Council will be aware of the importance in this preliminary process of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Lusaka in August. The Security Council was informed of the results of the Meeting in the letter from the Permanent Representative of Zambia to the Secretary-General dated 24 August 1979 (S/13515). In accordance with the undertakings given by the United Kingdom Government in Lusaka, all the parties to the conflict were invited by the United Kingdom Government to attend a constitutional conference in London. After three months of negotiation, agreement has been reached on an Independence Constitution providing for genuine majority rule. This Constitution was enacted by Order in Council on 6 December. Agreement has also been reached on the arrangements for the transitional period, including the holding of elections supervised under the United Kingdom's authority, and on the United Kingdom Government's cease-fire proposals. Throughout this process, the United Kingdom Government has been in close touch with the Governments of the front-line States and other Governments closely concerned.

The situation which was determined by the Security Council in its resolution 232 (1966) of 16 December 1966 to constitute a threat to international peace and security, as reaffirmed by subsequent resolutions of the Council, has accordingly been remedied and the purpose of the measures which were decided upon by the

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Council on the basis of that determination has been achieved. In these circumstances, the obligations of Member States under Article 25 of the Charter in relation to those measures are, in the view of the Government of the United Kingdom, to be regarded as having been discharged. This being so, the United Kingdom is terminating the measures which were taken by it pursuant to the decisions adopted by the Council in regard to the then situation of illegality.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the text of this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. D. PARSONS

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