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LETTER DATED 14 DECEMBER 1979 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF MADAGASCAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, on behalf of the African Group, to refer to the letter dated 12 December 1979 addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (S/13688).

The African Group notes with extreme concern the decision of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to cease as from the date of the above-mentioned letter to discharge its obligations under Article 25 of the United Nations Charter with regard to the mandatory sanctions imposed by the Security Council against Southern Rhodesia in resolution 253 (1968).

The African Group considers the unilateral action by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to be completely unacceptable and illegal. The African Group declares that Security Council resolution 253 (1968) can be revoked only by a decision of the Security Council and that any unilateral action taken in this context is a violation of the responsibilities assumed by Member States under Article 25 of the United Nations Charter.

The African Group considers that a colonial situation still exists in Southern Rhodesia which must be settled by the United Nations in the light of the principles laid down by the Charter and reaffirmed by resolution 1514 (XV) in order to ensure a return to peace and stability in Southern Rhodesia.

As matters stand, within that country the parties concerned have not yet laid down their arms and a state of war still exists which is a threat to international peace and security.

The African Group requests the Security Council to take the necessary measures to preserve its authority in this matter.

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

(Signed) Blaise RABETAFIKA
Permanent Representative of
Madagascar to the United Nations
Chairman of the African Group