

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

A/35/83
S/13775
1 February 1980
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-fifth session
QUESTION OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fifth year

Letter dated 31 January 1980 addressed to the Secretary-General from
the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations

In my capacity as Chairman of the Group of Non-Aligned Countries in the United Nations and on its express instructions, I have the honour to request you to circulate the message from the Chairman of the movement of non-aligned countries and the President of the Republic of Cuba, Mr. Fidel Castro Ruz, to the heads of State or Government of the non-aligned countries on the situation in Southern Rhodesia as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Question of Southern Rhodesia", and of the Security Council, in connexion with the debate currently taking place in the Council.

(Signed) Raúl ROA KOURÍ
Chairman of the Group of Non-Aligned
Countries in the United Nations

ANNEX

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE MOVEMENT OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES
FIDEL CASTRO RUZ, ON THE EVENTS IN ZIMBABWE

President Julius Nyerere, acting on behalf of the Presidents of the front-line States, and pursuant to the meeting held by those countries on 10 January 1980, has sent the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania, Benjamin Mkapa, to our country, to convey to us, in our capacity as Chairman of the movement of non-aligned countries, the protest of the front-line Countries against the action undertaken by the British authorities in Rhodesia, which, in the opinion of these countries, are violating the letter and spirit of the Lancaster House agreement.

The front-line Countries have also addressed the Organization of African Unity, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in conformity with the decisions of 10 January. In the light of what happens in the coming days and weeks, the front-line Countries will undertake further diplomatic action; inter alia, they have called upon the Security Council of the United Nations to debate this question.

As a result of the information transmitted by President Nyerere, I am requesting of all members of the movement of non-aligned countries that, in conformity with the decisions of the Sixth Summit of Heads of State or Government, they act in support of the rights of the people of Zimbabwe and of the Patriotic Front and demand of the British authorities the strictest respect for the Lancaster House agreements.

According to the assessment made by the Presidents of the front-line countries, the present situation in Rhodesia is characterized by the following facts:

1. The presence of South African troops in Rhodesia is directly contrary to the assurances given in London during the Conference. These troops are "guarding Beit Bridge", as has been admitted now by the British Governor, who says he has authorized this intervention.

2. When it was proved that the leaders of the Patriotic Front were right in declaring that the seven days accorded for the assembling of their forces were insufficient and that the number of assembly points was inadequate because the Patriotic Front had more than the 16,000 troops estimated by the British, the Governor did not act in accordance with the assurances given. He neither increased the number of assembly points nor acted in a spirit conducive to the success of the cease-fire and the preparation of free and just elections. Instead of that, when several thousand soldiers of the Patriotic Front were still outside the agreed points, an "amnesty" was declared, provided that they

/...

surrendered their weapons, as if the militants of the Patriotic Front were being graciously pardoned. Already a number of these freedom-fighters have been murdered in cold blood while trying to join their colleagues at the assembly points.

3. During the period of assembly, the Governor addressed himself twice to the Smith-Muzorewa troops to discuss with them what, in his view, constituted violations of the cease-fire. Two or three days after the deadline for the assembly of the troops of the Patriotic Front, and even a shorter time after his offer of "amnesty", the Governor deployed these same Smith-Muzorewa troops to face what were sometimes called "armed gangs" and sometimes "the 3,000 troops of the Patriotic Front which have not shown up".

These forces are being used to maintain "peace", in direct contravention of the Lancaster House agreement, which states that they are to be confined in their barracks at company level and that peace will be maintained by the police force.

It was a group of these Smith-Muzorewa forces that killed the soldiers of the Patriotic Front on their way to the assembly points. The British Governor now says that "they acted in conformity with their rights".

4. The Salisbury "auxiliary forces" (that is, the armed supporters of Bishop Muzorewa), which were supposed to have been incorporated in the Salisbury army and like it confined to their barracks, have been left to their own free will and are, in fact, moving into the areas evacuated by the forces of the Patriotic Front and occupying them when the latter move to the agreed points of assembly. These auxiliary forces are now terrorizing and intimidating the people in these places. The forces of the Patriotic Front at the assembly points are being gradually encircled by the forces of their racist enemies. The Government has not taken any action against these racist forces. Neither the troops of the Patriotic Front under its command nor any others have been used to redress this situation and to bring the "auxiliaries" under control. Moreover, at no time has the Governor had recourse to the cease-fire commission - in which both sides are represented - to consider a serious violation of the cease-fire. However, the agreement provides for such a procedure and states that it is this commission which should be notified in case of any violation of the cease-fire and should act or advise the Governor how to act.

All these facts and other minor violations highlight the total lack of seriousness of the British authorities in Salisbury and amount to a violation of the letter and spirit of the Lancaster House agreement.

The British Government is not fulfilling the commitments which were reached under its chairmanship in London and is thus failing to guarantee that the elections will be free and just, which is its main responsibility. It will not

/...

A/35/83
S/13775
English
Annex
Page 3

be possible to have free and just elections if the aforementioned conditions prevail, if the South African troops remain in Rhodesia and if the Smith-Muzorewa forces are allowed to move in full freedom and intimidate the people. In denouncing this situation, at the request of the front-line countries, we are sure that all the members of the movement of non-aligned countries, in the face of such grave developments, will join in the denunciation and protest launched by the front-line countries and will fully support the Patriotic Front and the cause of a free and independent Zimbabwe.

Fidel Castro Ruz
