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

Letter dated 23 May 1980 from the Permanent Representative of  
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the message of congratulation addressed by L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, to the States and peoples of Africa on the occasion of Africa Liberation Day.

I should be grateful if you would have this message circulated as an official General Assembly document under item 18 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) O. TROYANOVSKY

\* A/35/50.

ANNEX

Message of congratulation to the States and peoples  
of Africa on the occasion of Africa Liberation Day

On behalf of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the Government of the Soviet Union and the Soviet people and on my own behalf, I extend heartfelt congratulations to the Governments and peoples of the African States on the occasion of Africa Liberation Day.

This year has been marked by an outstanding success for the national liberation movement of the peoples of Africa: as a result of long years of selfless struggle by the patriotic forces of Zimbabwe against colonial, racist oppression, the people of that country have won their independence. A new State, the Republic of Zimbabwe, has appeared on the map of the world. A major step has been taken towards finally freeing Africa from the shackles of racism and colonialism.

The people of the Soviet Union also confidently await the triumph of the just cause of the liberation of Namibia, whose people are valiantly fighting for freedom and independence under the leadership of SWAPO, their recognized vanguard. The most shameful phenomenon of our time, apartheid in the Republic of South Africa, will also inevitably be done away with. The historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted by the United Nations in 1960 on the initiative of the Soviet Union, must be fully implemented, with no exceptions of any kind. That is history's command!

Consistently giving effect to the precepts of the great Lenin, the Soviet State will continue to support the anti-colonial, anti-racist liberation struggle of the peoples of Africa.

The independent countries of Africa must wage a difficult battle with imperialism in order to accomplish the task of eliminating the legacy of colonialism in every sphere of life. Imperialism is making every effort to halt the African peoples' march towards progress and prosperity and to fasten upon them the chains of neo-colonialism. The imperialist monopolies are continuing to plunder the natural wealth of Africa and are blocking the restructuring of international economic relations on a democratic, equitable basis.

The Soviet Union has always been and continues to be on the side of the African States in their struggle against the forces of imperialism and reaction.

The Soviet Union maintains solidarity with the Organization of African Unity in its activities aimed at developing good-neighbourly relations on the African continent and at the peaceful solution of disputes and conflicts whose roots lie in the colonial past. We favour unity among the independent countries of Africa and friendship and co-operation between them in the interests of their peoples and of the common struggle against imperialism, colonialism and racism.

The time is past when Africa was merely an object of exploitation and rivalry by the colonial Powers. Its voice, raised in defence of the peace, freedom and independence of peoples, now rings out loudly when pressing problems of international life are being solved. That fact is particularly important today when the international situation is being seriously exacerbated and tension is again being whipped up. There are some political figures who seek to arrogate to themselves the right to proclaim certain regions of the world as a zone of "vital interests" for their countries, who resort to crude blackmail and who threaten to use military force and in some places try to put those threats into practice. A direct challenge to Africa is posed by the attempts of imperialism to establish new military bases on African soil and to drag the countries of Africa into its dangerous adventures in order to divert them from the solution of the truly important problems which affect the vital interests of their peoples.

The role played by the independent countries of Africa in the struggle for lasting peace on earth and for international security is greatly appreciated in the Soviet Union. The present situation requires that all peace-loving States, great and small alike, make an even more vigorous effort to thwart the designs of the opponents of détente and prevent the imperialists from interfering in the affairs of other States.

I wish the peoples of Africa success in the struggle for the final elimination of the vestiges of colonialism, racism and apartheid and for peace, freedom and social progress.

L. BREZHNEV

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