

# UNITED NATIONS

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY SECURITY COUNCIL



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QUESTION OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 14 February 1979 from the Permanent Representative  
of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

I have the honour, on behalf of the African Group of States at the United Nations, to request you to circulate as a document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Question of Southern Rhodesia", and of the Security Council the attached statement made by the African Group at the United Nations on the moves within the United States Congress to send an observer team to Southern Rhodesia.

(Signed) Evuna OWONO ASANGONO  
Permanent Representative of Equatorial Guinea  
Chairman of the African Group

ANNEX

Statement made on 14 February 1979 by the African Group  
of States at the United Nations on the moves within the  
United States Congress to send an observer team to  
Southern Rhodesia

1. The African Group of States at the United Nations has learned with dismay and indignation of the moves within the United States Congress, where the Sub-Committee on Africa of the Senate is contemplating sending in April 1979, a team of observers to monitor the Rhodesian elections. The African Group has also learned that officials of the United States Department of State have tacitly endorsed American observance by suggesting to Senate planners that the team be objective and carefully balanced in its composition. In the view of the African Group, the permission given by the United States Government which enabled the rebel Ian Smith to visit this country last October, in spite of the protests by the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, has already cast serious doubt on the Administration's much vaunted "new policies" towards Africa.
2. The United Nations and the OAU have already condemned and rejected the so-called internal settlement which Ian Smith and his black collaborators have worked out and are claiming will guide Zimbabwe to majority rule. This so-called internal settlement represents a design for the entrenchment of white domination. Elections held under such circumstances are inherently unfree as well as illegal. The rebel Rhodesian Government, which the Security Council has determined to be illegal under international law, cannot conduct its own elections and have them accepted by the international community.
3. This new development in the United States Congress would appear to be intended to give credibility to the "internal settlement" which has not only been rejected but also condemned as a colossal fraud by Security Council resolution 423 (1978), which, inter alia, declared as illegal and unacceptable any internal settlement under the auspices of the illegal régime and called upon all States not to accord any recognition to such settlement. The United States voted positively for this resolution and is therefore bound by its terms in accordance with the provisions of Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations, which states: "The Members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the present Charter."
4. To send observers to such an election is in fact to give encouragement to the manoeuvres of the Smith régime calculated to defeat a genuine settlement of the conflict in Zimbabwe. Such a move can only comfort Mr. Smith and his collaborators and provide them with a false sense of hope if only they can continue with their oppressive war for some time more. It would, as a consequence, only lead to the escalation of the conflict and prolongation of the suffering and bloodshed of Zimbabweans. It would also be in flagrant violation of the Security Council

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decision. The international community will hold the United States Government responsible for any action taken by any of its institutions or private citizens in violation of a Security Council decision or mandatory sanctions. The Government cannot exonerate itself from bearing the responsibility for such a condemnable action.

5. The African Group is seriously concerned at this development, as it is indeed concerned with any policy action whose effect is to prolong the suffering of the people of Zimbabwe. In this regard, the African Group draws the attention of the Government of the United States to its responsibility as a Member of the United Nations, and in this particular context as a permanent member of the Security Council. Such responsibilities require, inter alia, scrupulous observance of the decisions of the Security Council. The African Group, conscious of the seriousness of this development and the repercussions for the prolongation of the conflict, urges the Government of the United States to take appropriate measures in order to avoid sanctifying Smith's forthcoming fraud. Needless to say, any encouragement of the Smith régime will seriously erode American credibility in Africa.

6. In the meantime, the African Group has recommended to the Council of Ministers of the OAU which will meet later this month at Nairobi the consideration of this serious development and related developments in Zimbabwe.

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