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

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fifth year

Letter dated 10 December 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 the text of a message addressed by
L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party
of the USSR, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, to the
participants in the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, on the occasion
of the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence
to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

I should be grateful if you would have the message circulated as an official
document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 18, and as a document of the
Security Council.

(Signed) O. TROYANOVSKY

ANNEX

Message addressed to participants in the thirty-fifth session
of the General Assembly, on the occasion of the twentieth
anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence
to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Distinguished representatives of States Members of the United Nations,

I am addressing you in connexion with the twentieth anniversary of an event which marked a milestone in the history of the struggle of peoples for freedom and progress: the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

In that Declaration and the decisions adopted with a view to amplifying its meaning, the United Nations called for the elimination of all colonial régimes, proclaimed the legitimacy of the struggle of colonial peoples for their national liberation, and called upon all States to give them material and moral support in that struggle. In so doing, the United Nations elevated the task of eliminating colonialism to the status of one of the cardinal problems of world politics and provided the national liberation movements with a clear and universally recognized frame of reference. This is one of the most significant achievements of the Organization throughout all its years of activity, and people in the Soviet Union are proud that it was their country which took the initiative of raising the question.

In the years since the adoption of the Declaration all the colonial empires have been dismantled. The flag of national independence is now flying over scores of young States, which are making an ever-greater contribution to the solution of the fundamental problems of our time.

However, colonialism has not yet been completely eliminated. The hotbed of colonialism and racism in southern Africa still survives. The inhuman system of apartheid in South Africa is a challenge to the Organization and to its decisions. The South African racists are maintaining their domination over Namibia. The Soviet Union considers that the United Nations has no more pressing task in its promotion of national liberation than that of bringing about the genuine independence of the Namibian people, whose sole legitimate representative is SWAPO, and eliminating the apartheid régime in South Africa.

The Declaration must also be applied fully and without further delay to all other territories still under colonial rule. It is the duty of the United Nations to make every effort to ensure that no people and no individual remain subjected to colonial oppression.

Furthermore, the United Nations can and must speak out against all manifestations of neo-colonialist policy, the exploitation of newly-independent

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States by imperialistic monopolies, the plundering of their natural resources and interference in their internal affairs, the identification of their territory as "spheres of vital interest" of certain great Powers, or the establishment in their territory of foreign military bases and support facilities.

The experience of economic and political nation-building in newly-independent States also confirms that it is essential to redouble efforts to avert the risk of war, to check the arms race and to maintain and strengthen détente, if these nations are to solve the complex problems which they face. Peace alone will make it possible to bring about a radical improvement in living conditions for their people and to put an end to the poverty, disease and cultural backwardness inherited from their colonial past.

The Soviet Union, for its part, will continue to work with the utmost determination to strengthen peace, to consolidate détente, to terminate the arms race and to eliminate colonialism and its political, economic, social and cultural consequences once and for all. It is ready to co-operate with all States in an effort to attain these essential objectives of world politics.

L. BREZHNEV