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LETTER DATED 25 JANUARY 1980 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF MALAWI TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On behalf of the African Group at the United Nations, I have the honour to request an urgent meeting of the Security Council to consider the explosive situation in Southern Rhodesia arising from the gross violations of the Lancaster House Agreement on Southern Rhodesia by the United Kingdom, which is the Administering colonial Power.

The Organization of African Unity having considered the latest developments in Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), instructed the African Group to call for an urgent meeting of the Security Council to consider the deteriorating situation in Southern Rhodesia.

The African Group wishes to draw the attention of the Security Council to its resolution 460 (1979) of 21 December 1979 which, inter alia:

"6. Calls for strict adherence to the agreements reached, and for their full and faithful implementation by the Administering Power and all the parties concerned;

"7. Calls upon the Administering Power to ensure that no South African or other external forces, regular or mercenary, will remain in or enter Southern Rhodesia, except those forces provided for under the Lancaster House Agreement;"

Regrettably the Administering Power has repeatedly violated several aspects of the Lancaster House Agreement. Among these gross violations are:

- 1) The continued presence in Southern Rhodesia of South African troops and other mercenary forces contrary to the Council resolution referred to above.
- 2) The deployment and use of Rhodesian forces by the British Governor to kill and harass Patriotic Front forces on their way to assembly points. Equally, the recognition and deployment of the so-called auxiliary forces to surround the Patriotic Front forces.

3) The unnecessary renewal of the state of emergency by the Governor for another six months, the maintenance of martial law in the Territory, the continued detention of political prisoners, and the denial of the fundamental right of return to all Zimbabwe refugees.

4) The deliberate refusal by the British Governor to accord equal treatment to the Patriotic Front forces and the continued harassment of the officials and supporters of the Patriotic Front.

It is evident that the gross violations stated above make it impossible to have a free and fair election conducted in Southern Rhodesia.

The African Group is convinced that if the United Kingdom allows the present situation in Southern Rhodesia to continue, it will constitute an even more serious threat to international peace and security. The Security Council must therefore take appropriate and immediate measures to arrest the situation in Southern Rhodesia.

(Signed) Chifwedi S. M. JERE
Chairman of the African Group
Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Malawi
