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

Letter dated 25 May 1981 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 the message of congratulation addressed by the 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 USSR, L. I. Brezhnev, to the States and peoples of Africa on the occasion of Africa Liberation Day.

I would request that you arrange for this message of congratulation to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 19.

(Signed) O. TROYANOVSKY

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\* A/36/50.

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 personal behalf, I heartily congratulate the Governments and peoples of the African States on the occasion of an important date - Africa Liberation Day.

The Soviet Union - as was recently explicitly reaffirmed by the twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union - is a sincere and staunch friend of the States and peoples of Africa. The Soviet people rejoice at the important accomplishments and successes of the African peoples. The liquidation of colonial empires has radically altered the political map of the African continent and the very face of Africa. The liberated countries have become full members of the world community and now have an opportunity independently to decide their own destinies. They have done much to promote the national economy and develop their own culture and art.

This year has been marked by a powerful onslaught by the African peoples on the last bastions of colonialism and racism in the southern part of the continent. The people of Namibia, under the leadership of their sole lawful representative - SWAPO - are selflessly struggling to become the true masters of their own country. The barbarous rule of the colonizers and racists is inevitably nearing its inglorious end.

The achievements of the African countries and peoples would undoubtedly have been even more substantial if the imperialists had not tried to recover the positions they lost in Africa, to rob the African people of the gains won in the national liberation struggle and constantly find new shackles to keep them in a state of neo-colonialist bondage.

In defiance of the whole of freedom-loving Africa, and showing complete disregard for the rights and aspirations of the African peoples, the imperialists are pursuing an increasingly open policy of rapprochement with the South African régime, and have actually become accomplices in protecting that bulwark of racism and colonialism in Africa. They are blatantly ignoring the United Nations demand for the granting of independence to Namibia. They shamelessly equate the national liberation struggle with "terrorism" while openly supporting the State terrorism of Pretoria and plainly encouraging its direct aggression against neighbouring sovereign African countries.

There is an undoubted threat to peace, security and the independence of the liberated peoples in the attempts of imperialist circles to involve African countries in their own global military and strategic plans by incorporating them in one way or another in military-political blocs and by exploiting existing military bases on the African continent and establishing new ones.

The neo-colonialists are continuing to plunder Africa's natural resources while preventing the restructuring of international economic relations on the basis of just and equitable principles.

The position of the Soviet State with regard to the national liberation movement of African peoples has always been, and still is, a position of principle. The Soviet Union unswervingly supports the struggle of the peoples of Africa for their national liberation and against the forces of imperialism and racism. We shall continue to give support to the just struggle of the people of Namibia, led by SWAPO, for freedom and for the prompt settlement of the question of Namibia in complete conformity with the decisions of the United Nations and the demands of the Organization of African Unity. The Soviet Union is entirely on the side of African and of all liberated States in their struggle for economic independence, against the dominance of imperialist monopolies, for genuine equality of rights in international economic relations and for the full and unreserved right of those countries to dispose of their own natural resources as they see fit.

In relations with the liberated States of Africa, as with those of other continents, the Soviet Union has consistently adhered and continues to adhere to the principles of equal rights and the universally recognized norms of international law. The unity of the African peoples has been and remains a proven asset in the struggle against the intrigues and tactics of the enemies of Africa's freedom.

Now that the international situation has become more difficult as a result of the policy followed by aggressive imperialist circles, the problem of reducing the threat of war and of controlling the arms race is more acute than ever.

The Soviet Union highly values the role of the independent African States in the solution of major contemporary problems and their constructive statements in the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, the non-aligned movement and other international forums in favour of peace, and of the transformation of Africa into a nuclear-free zone and of the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace.

We regard our co-operation in the world arena with the liberated countries of Africa as an important factor in present-day international relations. The Soviet Union will continue to pursue a consistent policy of developing co-operation with the liberated countries and of strengthening ties with the national liberation movement.

I wish the States and peoples of Africa further successes in their efforts to achieve the goals of national construction and economic and social progress in their struggle for the complete elimination of colonialism, racism and apartheid and for peace and freedom!

L. BREZHNEV