

UNITED NATIONS



GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



SECURITY
COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

A/33/61
S/12583
6 March 1978
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-third session
Item 93 of the preliminary list*
QUESTION OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-third year

Letter dated 6 March 1978 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a message from Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Member of the Council of the Revolution and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

On instructions from my Government, I hereby request you to have this message circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 93 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdelkader BENSMAIL
Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Algeria
to the United Nations

* A/33/50.

ANNEX

Letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria
addressed to the Secretary-General

In November 1965, Ian Smith, defying the administering Power and the entire international community, made a unilateral declaration of independence by seizing for the benefit of the white minority the legitimate power of the African people of Zimbabwe.

Confronted with this challenge, the international community, acting through the competent United Nations bodies, including the Security Council and the General Assembly, declared the Ian Smith régime to be illegal, solemnly reaffirming that the people of Zimbabwe were the only repository of sovereignty and that the United Kingdom continued to be the administering Power, with all the obligations and prerogatives provided for in the Charter. At the same time, the United Nations imposed political and economic sanctions which confirmed the illegitimacy of the racist Salisbury régime.

Since that time, this question has been regularly included in the agenda of all bodies responsible for dealing with the problems of decolonization, apartheid and racism.

The Organization of African Unity, for its part, had supported the efforts of the Zimbabwe liberation movement, and the summit conference of Heads of State and Government of OAU held at Libreville recognized the Patriotic Front as the only representative of the people of Zimbabwe in their effort to attain their national objectives; thus, the framework for a peaceful settlement of the Rhodesian question through complete, effective decolonization has been clearly defined by the international community.

For some time, however, certain initiatives have been under way for the purpose of diverting the decolonization of Zimbabwe from its normal course through a so-called internal agreement which runs counter to the search for a peaceful settlement. Disregarding the legitimate aspirations of the people of Zimbabwe as embodied in the Patriotic Front, this agreement seems to have no objective other than that of legalizing, indeed legitimizing, the Ian Smith régime.

It thus constitutes a violation of the provisions adopted by the United Nations and a deliberate attempt to sabotage the efforts being made by the international community in solidarity with Africa for the purpose of finding a just and lasting solution to the problem of Zimbabwe.

Boycott measures have, of course, been taken by international bodies with a view to isolating the illegal Ian Smith régime both politically and economically, and it is more than ever essential for those measures to be maintained and strengthened. In this sensitive area, in which the problems of South Africa and

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Namibia are still unsolved, peace can be ensured only if the peoples concerned join in working out a solution and, in this particular case, if the Patriotic Front, the authentic representative of the people of Zimbabwe, takes part in that effort. It now appears, therefore, that the moves being made by Ian Smith are aimed only at sowing the seeds of civil war in Zimbabwe by dividing the African people and setting them against one another. In these grave circumstances, with the fate of an entire people at stake, I appeal to your sense of responsibility to see that the prestige and authority of the United Nations are not used to make a mockery of the fundamental rights of the people of Zimbabwe and that the decisions which have been taken by our Organization and supported by OAU and the movement of non-aligned countries are complied with and properly implemented.

The arrangement worked out at Salisbury by the illegal Ian Smith régime is, in our view, null and void; it must be denounced as such by the entire international community.

Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA
Member of the Council of the Revolution
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
