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NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. The Secretary-General wishes to inform the Security Council that he has received information concerning the situation in Southern Rhodesia and, particularly, the situation which has arisen as a result of the decision of the Government of Mozambique to impose sanctions against Southern Rhodesia in full implementation of the relevant decisions of the Security Council.

2. On 5 March 1976, the Secretary-General received a telegram from the President of the People's Republic of Mozambique, Mr. Samora Moises Machel. This telegram, which has been circulated as a note verbale to all Member States, reads as follows:

"On behalf of the Council of Ministers we have the honour to inform the United Nations and to request you to inform Member States that, in order to support the just struggle for national liberation of the people of Zimbabwe against the racist minority régime, in keeping with the relevant decisions of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, the People's Republic of Mozambique, as of 3 March 1976, has imposed sanctions against the British colony of Southern Rhodesia.

"We should also like to draw your attention to the fact that the racist minority régime of Ian Smith, pursuing its traditional policy of aggression against our people, has made a new move in its criminal campaign, unleashing a veritable war of aggression against our country during the night of 23 February. Racist troops, with air support, invaded the villages of Pafuri and Mavue and murdered old people and children, men and women.

"We are sure that, as Secretary-General of the United Nations; you will make the necessary approaches to Member States to support our country, which is the victim of racist aggression."

3. On 6 March, the Secretary-General received a cable from the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Mr. Shridath Ramphal. This telegram reads as follows:

"You will recall that in May 1975 my predecessor Arnold Smith communicated to you the decisions of Commonwealth Heads of Government at their meeting in Kingston, Jamaica, in regard to the maintenance and intensification of mandatory sanctions against the illegal Rhodesian régime. You were good enough subsequently to transmit the text of this communication to the Security Council Committee established in pursuance of resolution 253 (1968)

concerning the question of Southern Rhodesia. At the emergency meeting today, 4 March 1976, of the Commonwealth Sanctions Committee I was asked to communicate to you and to the Chairman of the United Nations Sanctions Committee the outcome of the Committee's consideration, in the context of current circumstances in Rhodesia and Mozambique, of ways in which the decisions taken by Heads of Government at their Kingston meeting in May 1975 might be pursued.

"In principal conclusions of the Committee were as follows:

"The Commonwealth Sanctions Committee welcomed the announcement by President Samora Machel that Mozambique is now fully implementing United Nations sanctions against Rhodesia.

"Recalling the decision of the Kingston Heads of Government meeting, the Committee agreed to recommend to Commonwealth Governments through the Commonwealth Secretary-General the need for them to react urgently in accordance with the agreement reached at Kingston. The way Commonwealth Governments may wish to react could be either bilaterally or multilaterally, or both, including co-ordinated action at the international level - all in accordance with the conclusions reached by Commonwealth Heads of Government at Kingston.

"The Committee specifically commended the initiatives already taken in this regard by some Commonwealth Governments at a bilateral level.

"The Committee agreed that the Government of Mozambique should now be contacted by the Commonwealth Secretary-General as a matter of urgency with a view to ascertaining possible areas of assistance to that Government as envisaged in paragraph 22 of the Kingston communiqué. This information would be conveyed to Commonwealth Governments with a view to facilitating the immediate provision of necessary assistance.'

"You will recall that the context of the relevant paragraph of the communiqué was as follows:

"In considering the recommendations of the Commonwealth Sanctions Committee, and authorizing the Committee to continue its work, Heads of Government emphasized the importance of taking immediate practical steps to assist an independent Mozambique in applying sanctions, since the great bulk of Rhodesia's exports and imports is dependent on Mozambique's transit facilities. They were unanimously in favour of providing immediate financial assistance to the new Government of Mozambique. They also endorsed the recommendation that an initiative should be taken by Commonwealth Governments at the United Nations to establish a programme of assistance for Mozambique in terms of articles 49 and 50 of the Charter.'

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"I am contacting the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique as requested by the Commonwealth Sanctions Committee and I shall, of course, keep you fully informed of any developments. It would equally be of great assistance to me if I could be kept informed as appropriate of developments at the United Nations relevant to the recommendations of the Commonwealth Sanctions Committee. I have sent a similar communication to Ambassador Salim Salim of the United Republic of Tanzania in his capacity as Chairman of the United Nations Sanctions Committee.

(Signed) "Shridath S. Ramphal
Commonwealth Secretary-General"

4. In connexion with the matters raised in the above-mentioned communications it might be noted that the Secretary-General on 4 March issued the following statement to the press:

"The measures taken by the Government of Mozambique including the closure of its border with Rhodesia and the application of full economic sanctions emphasize the gravity of the situation and urgent need for a solution of the Rhodesian problem.

"The Secretary-General is confident that the United Nations will respond favourably to any request for assistance which the Government of Mozambique may make in order to offset the economic consequences of its application of full sanctions against Rhodesia."
