

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

1. At its 1604th meeting held on 2 December 1971, the Security Council, while discussing the question concerning the situation in Southern Rhodesia, decided, in accordance with rule 39 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, that Mr. Nkomo and Mr. Sithole should "be invited to appear before the Council to state their views of the proposals on Southern Rhodesia".
2. Following that decision, the President of the Security Council addressed a letter on the same day to the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations. The text of this letter is as follows:

"As you are aware, at its 1604th meeting held today, the Security Council, without objection, took a decision in support of the invitation of Messrs. Nkomo and Sithole, to appear before the Security Council.

"This decision was taken following a proposal made at the 1602nd meeting of the Security Council, held on 25 November 1971, by the representative of the Soviet Union. At that meeting, the representative of the Soviet Union proposed that the leaders of the parties, ZAPU and ZANU, Mr. Nkomo and Mr. Sithole, 'be invited to the meetings of the Security Council so that the Council can hear them and obtain from them information concerning the true position in Southern Rhodesia and their appraisal of the Home-Smith agreements' (S/PV.1602, p.46). The representative of Somalia associated himself with the proposal (S/PV.1602, p.77).

"I consider it my duty to draw Your Excellency's attention to this decision of the Security Council. I would hope that Your Excellency's Government, as the administering authority of the Territory, will take the appropriate steps to ensure compliance with this decision of the Security Council."

3. On 21 December 1971, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations addressed a letter to the President of the Security Council. The text of this letter is as follows:

"I have the honour to acknowledge your letter of 2 December, in which you drew my attention to the Security Council's invitation to Mr. Nkomo and Reverend Sithole to appear before the Security Council, which I accordingly referred to my Government.

"I am instructed by my Government to say that they have considered carefully the hope expressed in Your Excellency's letter that they would take appropriate steps to ensure that Mr. Nkomo and Reverend Sithole were able to respond to the invitation to address the Council. As you know, however, Mr. Nkomo is in detention and the Reverend Sithole is serving a prison sentence in Rhodesia. In these circumstances my Government regret that, as I said during our consultations before you announced that there were no objections to the issuance of the invitation, they are not in a position to require the Rhodesian authorities to allow either Mr. Nkomo or the Reverend Sithole to come to New York."
