

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL



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THIRD INTERIM REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED IN PURSUANCE OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 253 (1968)

Introduction

1. On 29 March 1972, the Committee established in pursuance of Security Council resolution 253 (1968) submitted to the Security Council a second interim report. 1/ In that document, after recalling that in its first interim report, submitted on 3 December 1971, 2/ it had already drawn the attention of the Council to new legislation enacted by the United States Government that could permit the importation into that country of chrome ore from Southern Rhodesia after 1 January 1972, the Committee informed the Council of the first case of actual importation of Southern Rhodesia chrome ore into the United States aboard the vessel Santos Vegas. Noting that that case was closely linked with the substance of its first interim report, the Committee considered that in the light of the information provided by the United States representative acknowledging the materiality of the facts, it was proper for it, within the framework of Council resolutions 253 (1968), 277 (1970) and 314 (1972), to report the case to the Security Council as a matter of urgent concern.

Consideration by the Committee

2. At the 73rd meeting of the Committee, on 3 April, the representative of Somalia said that he had been informed that a Greek vessel, the Agios Giorgios, carrying chrome ore from Southern Rhodesia had now reached the mouth of the Mississippi River and was likely to proceed to a Louisiana port for unloading. The Committee decided to ask the Secretary-General to send a note urgently to the Government of Greece requesting any information it might have on the matter as soon as possible. At the 74th meeting, on 6 April, the Chairman announced that he had received information, according to which the Agios Giorgios had been spotted in the area of Port Burnside (Louisiana). He then requested the United States representative to provide the Committee with further information on the case as soon as possible.

1/ S/10580.

2/ First interim report of the Committee (S/10408).

3. At the 76th meeting of the Committee, on 6 April, the representative of the United States made the following statement:

"At one of our previous meetings, the distinguished representative of Somalia asked whether my delegation had any information concerning the arrival of the Greek ship Agios Giorgios. My Government wishes to inform the Committee that the Agios Giorgios arrived in New Orleans 4 April 1972 and unloaded 29,682 tons of Rhodesian chrome ore on the same date."

Action taken by the Committee

4. Following the statement by the representative of the United States at the 76th meeting, the Committee decided to ask the Secretary-General to address a further note to the Government of Greece, confirming the arrival of Rhodesian chrome ore on board a Greek vessel, the Agios Giorgios, and requesting the Greek Government to investigate the circumstances in which a cargo of Rhodesian origin, the carriage of which is prohibited by paragraph 3 (c) of resolution 253 (1968), was carried on a Greek vessel. The note would ask the Government of Greece to report on the action it has taken and on any measures it proposes to take as suggested in the note verbale of 7 April 1972 to prevent participation by its nationals or by Greek registered vessels in transactions of this nature.

5. The Committee considered that this second case of importation of chrome ore into the United States was a serious matter that had to be examined within the framework of Council resolutions 253 (1968), 277 (1970) and 314 (1972). It expressed its regret for the action, as well as its concern that, despite its second interim report, an additional shipment of chrome ore from Southern Rhodesia had entered the United States.

6. The Committee finally considered that, bearing in mind the whole background of the matter, that additional import of Southern Rhodesian chrome ore into the United States deserved the special attention of the Security Council as a matter of urgent concern.

