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LETTER DATED 10 MARCH 1970 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

I should appreciate it if you would take steps to have the attached
statement by TASS of 8 March 1970 circulated as an official document of the United
Nations General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Y. MALIK
Permanent Representative of the USSR
to the United Nations

* Also circulated under the symbol A/7959.

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STATEMENT BY TASS

The racist régime of the white minority headed by Smith in Southern Rhodesia, which has actually been created by the ruling circles in the United Kingdom, has committed a new crime against the peoples of Africa: on 2 March a farce was played out in Salisbury in which Southern Rhodesia was proclaimed a "republic", in disregard of the demands put forward for many years by the people of Southern Rhodesia, the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council for the transfer of power in the country from the hands of the white minority, which constitutes 5 per cent of the population. This is the logical conclusion to a whole series of illegal acts carried out by the racist régime for the purpose of perpetuating the colonial order in Southern Rhodesia.

The illegal Smith régime long ago established in Southern Rhodesia an inhuman system of racial oppression modelled on and similar to that existing in the Republic of South Africa.

In Southern Rhodesia a series of discriminatory laws has been adopted with a view to depriving the African inhabitants of the right to be masters in their own country, and a régime of police coercion and terror has been established which ruthlessly persecutes the patriots fighting to secure for the people of Zimbabwe the exercise of their lawful rights to self-determination and genuine independence. The United Nations General Assembly has with full justification characterized the whole policy of the Smith régime as a "crime against humanity".

In 1969, encouraged by official circles in the United Kingdom, which, in accordance with the decisions of the United Nations, had the obligation to take all necessary measures, including the use of force, to eliminate the illegal Smith régime, the racists of Southern Rhodesia staged the comedy of a referendum and adopted a new "constitution" aimed at perpetuating the present situation of the 5 million indigenous African inhabitants of the country - who enjoy no rights and are, indeed, in a condition of slavery - and consolidating the policy of racial discrimination, segregation and apartheid.

Now the falseness of the United Kingdom Government's assertions that economic and financial sanctions would be sufficient to eliminate the Smith régime is obvious to everyone. In the circumstances, the policy of the United Kingdom,

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which has not secured the transfer of power to the people of Southern Rhodesia and has not taken decisive steps to eliminate the illegal Smith régime, serves as a model of the efforts of the colonialists to maintain domination by one means or another.

No one has the slightest doubt that the small band of advocates of racism in Southern Rhodesia would be unable to resist the force of the struggle of the Zimbabwe people for their national independence if it did not have, in addition to political protection, the financial, economic and military support of certain countries of the West. The imperialist monopolies, finding in the racist Smith régime a protector of their interests, which are aimed at the unrestricted plunder of the country's natural wealth belonging by right to its indigenous inhabitants, had no intention of severing their close ties with the racist régime. As a result of this attitude on the part of the monopolies, the sanctions, which were limited to begin with, have been rendered totally ineffective and the United Nations many appeals for the severance of all relations with the Rhodesian racists have been ignored.

The actions of the Smith clique are an integral part of the conspiracy which seeks to convert the southern part of the African continent into a fortress of racism and neo-colonialism. The colonialists of the Republic of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, entrenched in Africa, have joined with the Government of Portugal, which stubbornly refuses to grant independence to its African colonies, in forming a close military and political bloc. The open alliance between Pretoria, Salisbury and Lisbon not only is intended to halt the progress the national liberation movement of the African peoples who are still under the yoke of the colonialists but also is directed against the independence and sovereignty of all African States.

The peoples of Africa understand correctly this new manoeuvre of the neo-colonialists in connexion with Southern Rhodesia and are aware of the danger which the racist régimes represent for all the countries of the continent. In the light of the challenge flung by the racists and colonialists at the peoples of Africa, the unity of action of the African countries and of all the forces of progress and peace, and their united will and determination to put an end to the shameful system of racism and colonialism, assume particularly great significance.

TASS is authorized to state that the Soviet Union resolutely condemns the actions of the racist Smith régime in Southern Rhodesia and its protectors and does not recognize that régime since all its activities are directed towards consolidating the rule of the white minority over the people of Zimbabwe. The Soviet Union consistently advocates the adoption of measures to eliminate the racist régime in Southern Rhodesia. It expresses its complete solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe, who are waging a just struggle for national independence and freedom.

8 March 1970.
