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LETTER DATED 18 MARCH 1970 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, dated 11 March 1970, concerning Southern
Rhodesia.

I would be very much obliged if you kindly arranged that the statement be
circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Accept, Excellency, etc.

(Signed) R. LACKO
Acting Permanent Representative

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic most resolutely condemns the illegal act taken by the racist régime of Ian Smith who on 2 March 1970, in sharp contradiction to the many years' struggle of the Zimbabwe people for real independence, proclaimed Southern Rhodesia a "Republic", where 220,000 white settlers have usurped the rule over nearly 5 million African people.

This measure of the racist régime of Ian Smith flagrantly violates the basic provisions of the United Nations Charter and is also in contradiction to the resolutions of the Organization of African Unity. The people of Zimbabwe are to be accorded the right to self-determination, freedom and independence. The declaration of the "Rhodesian Republic" logically follows up with the unlawful and unilateral declaration of "independence" of Southern Rhodesia by the Government of the white minority in 1965, which in principle cannot be qualified but as a crime against the African population of that country.

By this crime, a group of white usurpers of power strives to strengthen its domination over exploited and persecuted Africans. It is a concrete expression of the endeavour to "legalize" the policy of racial discrimination, segregation and apartheid. The proclamation of this "Republic" is at the same time intended to contribute to the strengthening of the positions of colonialism and racism in the south of the African continent.

The military-political alliance of the colonial régimes of the South African Republic, Southern Rhodesia and Portugal, in which the racist Smith Government represents an important link, is part of the general political, economic and military strategy of imperialism in this part of the world. Its aim is not only to slow down the process of the struggle of the African peoples against the remnants of colonialism - in Southern Rhodesia, South Africa, Namibia, Angola, Mozambique, Guinea (Bissau), but also to build up a strong bulwark of neo-colonialism. This bloc represents a direct threat to the independence and sovereignty of young African States.

The United Nations has not only condemned the policy of the racist régimes in the South of Africa, but has also adopted concrete measures. The most important of them within the struggle against the illegal rule of the racist minority in Southern Rhodesia was the declaration of economic sanctions according to the United Nations Charter.

Responsibility for the past ineffectiveness of this United Nations course in relation to the Government of Ian Smith rests fully with Great Britain as the administrative Power and those States of the military NATO bloc which support this régime politically, financially, economically and also militarily in the interest of imperialist monopolies.

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic does not recognize the declaration of the "Rhodesian Republic" by the racist minority régime and expresses its resolute protest against this arbitrary and unlawful act. In this sense, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic has always consistently fulfilled all provisions of resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the General Assembly and has also complied with all measures for which the United Nations has asked its Member States. Czechoslovakia, which has actively contributed to the strengthening of a united front of the struggle against imperialism and colonialism, considers it its internationalist duty to support also in the future the adoption and implementation of such measures which would enable the people of Zimbabwe to exercise their legitimate rights to self-determination, freedom and independence.

11 March 1970
