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LETTER DATED 20 MARCH 1970 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In connexion with the recent developments in Southern Rhodesia and the discussions by the Security Council of the situation resulting from them, I have the honour to inform you of the following statement made today, 20 March 1970, by Mr. Abba Eban, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel:

"On the morrow of the unilateral and illegal declaration of the Government of Southern Rhodesia, in November 1965, of its so-called 'independence', the Government of Israel announced that it did not recognize that step and had no intention of according its recognition to a régime set up in conflict with the basic rights of the majority of the inhabitants of Southern Rhodesia.

"This position of non-recognition of a régime based on racialism, discrimination and inequality remains valid, and Israel does not of course recognize the step taken to establish a so-called republic.

"We have no political, economic, commercial or other relations with the present régime, and it is our resolve to maintain that stand.

"More than once, we have expressed our opinion of the nature of the régime that is in authority in Salisbury, and we have emphasized our feelings of shock at all that is happening in Southern Rhodesia and in its courts.

"It is not in our mind to change one iota of our attitude until there is established in Southern Rhodesia a Government based upon the will of the people, and one that honours the tradition and the practices which ought to prevail in human and international relations.

"Our basic position stems from our character as a Jewish State, founded upon the idea of human equality. The Jewish way of thinking debars any hierarchy amongst states of peoples, inferior or superior beings.

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"From this clearly derives our opposition to the existence of the present régime in Southern Rhodesia."

I have the honour to request circulation of this letter as an official document of the Security Council and the General Assemb.y.

(Signed) Yosef TEKOAH
Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations
