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LETTER DATED 23 MARCH 1970 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF HAITI
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you, on the instructions of my Government, the text of the statement made by His Excellency Dr. François Duvalier, President for life of the Republic of Haiti, concerning the illegal declaration of independence by the régime in Southern Rhodesia:

His Excellency U Thant
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you the following statement which establishes the position of the Government of the Republic of Haiti concerning the serious crisis in Southern Rhodesia and request you to make it an official document of the United Nations:

'In defiance of the most sacred principles of political ethics, the provisions of the United Nations Charter and international morality, a small group of white rebels in Southern Rhodesia, having four years ago declared the de facto independence of that essentially black country, have now sought to give their usurpation a semblance of legality by declaring, this time, a pseudo-republic in this part of the old black continent.

'World opinion is justifiably shocked by this arbitrary action, which is morally condemnable and constitutes a violation both of political law and of international law. The conscience of the world is revolted by this unilateral imposition of the will of a minority on the helpless will of the great mass of the indigenous Blacks of Southern Rhodesia, who are thus physically alienated and politically frustrated in their freedom of choice. The same natural enthusiasm and the same generous feeling of racial solidarity which determined the position adopted by the Government and people of Haiti a few years ago against South Africa's inhuman policies of apartheid today move me to register the most solemn protest against the act of

usurpation brazenly repeated to the detriment of the great majority of the indigenous inhabitants of Southern Rhodesia. The Government of the Republic of Haiti resolutely hopes that adequate political measures, the moral force of world-wide protest, firm and courageous action by the United Nations and the weight of economic and diplomatic sanctions will finally prove effective in crushing the pretensions of the small group of rebels in Southern Rhodesia and thus restoring to the true Rhodesians their right to live in freedom from all forms of oppression, and, like their brothers elsewhere in Africa, to determine their own future and national destiny.

'From all ends of the universe there arises a vast uproar of concern and revulsion at the fate imposed on a black majority.

'After the disappearance of the Ibo people of Biafra, is this the beginning of a new era with new barbarians trying to establish, in contempt for universal brotherhood, a new civilization which is not that of Christianity?'

I take this opportunity to renew to you, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration. Dr. François Duvalier, President for life of the Republic of Haiti."

I would be grateful if you would arrange for this statement to be issued as an official document of the Security Council.

Accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) Ambassador Marcel Charles ANTOINE
