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IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIVERSAL REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES
TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND OF THE SPEEDY GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE
TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES FOR THE EFFECTIVE GUARANTEE
AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Report of the Secretary-General

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BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

/Original: Russian/

/24 September 1979/

1. The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, faithful to the Leninist principles of freedom and equal rights for all peoples and nations, to the principles of proletarian internationalism and to the policy of friendship and brotherhood with all peoples languishing under a foreign yoke, steadfastly and vigorously opposes colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, racism and all forms of national oppression.
2. The Byelorussian SSR wages a consistent struggle for the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and for the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, thus responding to the demand made in the United Nations Charter and other United Nations instruments for the speedy elimination of the remaining colonial régimes and the complete eradication of apartheid and racism.
3. The Byelorussian SSR takes a firm position in favour of the immediate realization of the inalienable right of the peoples of southern Africa to self-determination and independence, of the transfer of full power to the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia through their authentic representatives, the Patriotic Front and SWAPO, and of the elimination of the shameful system of apartheid in the Republic of South Africa.
4. The Byelorussian SSR's position of solidarity with the peoples still under the colonial yoke has been repeatedly set forth in statements by Byelorussian representatives in the United Nations and other international bodies and in reports and other material transmitted to the United Nations Secretariat.
5. The Byelorussian SSR vigorously and consistently champions and works for the practical application of the decisions and resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly calling for the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, apartheid and the vestiges of colonialism, including General Assembly resolution 33/24 on the importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights. The Byelorussian SSR also favours the consistent implementation of the decisions adopted by the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.
6. The Byelorussian SSR condemns the practice of employing mercenaries against national liberation movements and sovereign States and supports the United Nations decisions calling for this practice to be regarded as a criminal offence.
7. Social conditions in the Byelorussian SSR completely preclude any possibility of mercenaries being recruited, subsidized, trained or transported by Byelorussian citizens.

8. Public organizations, the press, radio, television and other mass media in the Republic play an active part in systematically acquainting the population with the struggle of peoples and United Nations activities aimed at eliminating the last centres of colonialism and ensuring that peoples enjoy the right to self-determination, freedom and independence. In accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations General Assembly, public meetings and gatherings are held in the Republic every year in observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Day of Solidarity with the struggle of the Arab people of Palestine for its rights. The period from 25 to 31 May is observed in the Republic as a Week of Solidarity with the Struggle of the Peoples of Southern Africa during which there are meetings, gatherings, exhibitions and the like. Other events take place in connexion with notable dates in the struggle and life of the African peoples. Representatives of Asian and African countries, including activists of the national liberation movements, pursue studies at Byelorussian higher and technical secondary educational establishments.

9. The Byelorussian SSR has always co-operated with African and other States in providing comprehensive support to peoples struggling against colonialism and racism and will continue to call for the application of the most effective, practical measures to that end.
