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NOTE VERBALE* DATED 31 JULY 1968 FROM THE PERMANENT
MISSION OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to his letter PO 230 SORH (1-2) addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, has the honour to make the following statement.

In accordance with its steadfast policy of giving aid and support of every kind to peoples struggling for their national liberation against the forces of imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, the Soviet Union is rigorously carrying out the decisions of the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council aimed at the earliest possible liquidation everywhere of the remnants of colonial régimes.

The Soviet Union has always consistently carried out and is still carrying out the decisions of the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council relating to Southern Rhodesia, in the conviction that the interests of peace and security demand the liquidation of the racist and fascist régime in Southern Rhodesia and the granting of independence to the Zimbabwe people engaged in legitimate struggle for its national liberation, a struggle the legitimacy of which has been recognized by the United Nations as well.

In accordance with this fundamental position, the Soviet Union voted in the Security Council in favour of resolution 253 (1968), which provided for the adoption of measures against the racist minority régime in Southern Rhodesia, and is prepared to participate effectively in implementing them.

* Circulated at the request of the Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The USSR emphatically condemns this racist régime, which is attempting to consolidate by terror and repression a system of racial persecution and exploitation of the indigenous population in Southern Rhodesia and to strengthen the political and economic domination exercised by a racist minority hostile to the people of Zimbabwe. The USSR does not recognize the racist and fascist régime of Southern Rhodesia and has maintained and maintains no relations with it. The Soviet Union has taken the necessary steps to ensure the strict observance of all Security Council demands for sanctions in respect of Southern Rhodesia. In addition to these measures, the USSR has refused to provide mail, cable, telephone or other communications with Southern Rhodesia. The Soviet Union also maintains no economic, commercial, maritime or other connexions with the Republic of South Africa and Portugal, Southern Rhodesia's allies in the exploitation and oppression of the African peoples.

The special responsibility of the United Kingdom for the situation in Southern Rhodesia, and the international political responsibility of the United States, the Republic of South Africa, Portugal, the Federal Republic of Germany and a number of other Western States for the continuance in power of the racist régime in Southern Rhodesia cannot pass unmentioned. It is precisely these States Members of the United Nations, endeavouring to retain their political, economic and military and strategic positions in Southern Rhodesia and southern Africa, which are continuing to maintain economic, commercial and other relations with the Southern Rhodesian régime, a situation whose effect must inevitably be to encourage and consolidate this illegal régime.

The Soviet Union will continue to give every possible kind of assistance to the people of Southern Rhodesia in its just and legitimate struggle to achieve freedom and national independence and will consistently support the implementation of United Nations decisions aimed at bringing genuine independence to the Zimbabwe people.
