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LETTER DATED 27 AUGUST 1968 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BELGIUM  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to refer to your note PO 230 SORH (1-2) of 7 June 1968 concerning resolution 253 adopted by the Security Council on 29 May 1968 on the question of Southern Rhodesia.

By a ministerial order of 24 December 1965, Belgium had already made all imports from and all exports to Southern Rhodesia subject to licence.

By the application of the said order, Belgium is terminating all commercial traffic in all goods and products, with the exception of authorized deliveries under the circumstances stated in resolution 253 (1968), article 3 (d).

To complete these provisions, the Belgian Government envisages making subject to licence the transit of the same goods and products under the same conditions.

The measures taken previously, in implementation of resolution 232 (1966) prohibiting the air and sea transport of the goods which are subject to the embargo, have been confirmed and completed in conformity with article 3 (e) of the new resolution.

An examination of resolution 253 (1968) has revealed that some of its provisions could not be implemented through the administrative means available to the Belgian Government and that a legislative measure was necessary. The Government therefore intends to submit a bill to Parliament in order to secure the adoption of legislation which takes account of these points.

With regard to the question of Rhodesian passports, Belgium has already refused since December 1965 to recognize such travel documents. The authorities concerned will bear in mind the new provisions contained in resolution 253 (1968), article 5.

Measures have been adopted in conformity with article 8 of the said resolution.

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I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) C. SCHUURMANS  
Permanent Representative of Belgium

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