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NOTE VERBALE DATED 24 FEBRUARY 1967 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Mission of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to his note No. PO 230 SORH (1) of 17 December 1966, has the honour to state the following.

The Government of the Byelorussian SSR notes with concern that, in spite of the demands of world public opinion and the numerous decisions taken by the United Nations, the situation in Southern Rhodesia is continuing to deteriorate. The racist régime and its protectors are flagrantly violating the rights of the African population of Southern Rhodesia to freedom and independence. Primary responsibility for the situation which has arisen in Southern Rhodesia rests with the United Kingdom, as the administering Power, which, now as in the past, is stubbornly refusing to take effective steps to put an end to the infamous Smith régime in Southern Rhodesia.

The Byelorussian SSR supports the just demands of the African countries for effective action to remove the racist Smith régime from power without delay and to give the people of Zimbabwe genuine independence. At its twenty-first session, the General Assembly reaffirmed the legitimacy of the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe for the exercise of their inalienable right to freedom and independence and called upon all States to give them moral and material support in that struggle. The Byelorussian SSR maintains complete solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe in their just struggle for genuine independence.

The Byelorussian SSR has never maintained and does not now maintain political or economic relations with the racist régime in Southern Rhodesia and is not providing it with assistance or support of any kind. The Government of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic is implementing all the decisions taken

with respect to Southern Rhodesia by United Nations bodies. It will strictly comply with the terms of the Security Council resolution of 16 December 1966. Although the measures provided for in that resolution are inadequate, the Byelorussian SSR attaches great importance to the fact that it is the first resolution to provide for the imposition of economic sanctions which, under the United Nations Charter, are mandatory for all States.

It is the duty of the United Nations to put an end to colonialism in all its forms and manifestations without delay. The Byelorussian SSR is prepared to make whatever effort is necessary in order to accomplish that noble task.

The Mission requests that this letter should be circulated as an official Security Council document.

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