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NOTE VERBALE DATED 28 FEBRUARY 1967 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
AUSTRIA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to the Secretary-General's notes PO 230 SORH (1) of 17 December 1966 and 13 January 1967 on the question concerning the situation in Southern Rhodesia, has the honour to transmit herewith the reply of the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria.

The Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations would be grateful if the Secretary-General could have this communication circulated as a Security Council document.

"The Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to the Secretary-General's notes PO 230 SORH (1) of 17 December 1966 and 13 January 1967, has the honour to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations as follows:

The Federal Government of Austria has carefully considered the above-mentioned notes with which the resolution of the Security Council S/RES/232 (1966) of 16 December 1966, regarding the situation in Southern Rhodesia had been submitted.

Without prejudice to the question of principle, whether Austria as a permanently neutral State Member of the United Nations is automatically bound by decisions of the Security Council regarding mandatory sanctions - a question which in the opinion of the Federal Government of Austria can only be decided in each single case on the basis of the specific situation and with due regard to the obligations which result on the one hand from the membership of Austria in the United Nations and on the other hand from its permanent neutrality, which had previously been notified to all States Members of the United Nations - the Federal Government of Austria has in this particular case and under the given circumstances decided as follows:

(a) In the note of the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations, No. 224-A/66 of 26 January 1966, it has been stated that the Austrian Council of Ministers has, as early as 23 November 1965, decided not to recognize the new régime in Southern Rhodesia and not to buy any tobacco from Southern Rhodesia for the time being. This measure remains in force and prohibits the import of tobacco or tobacco products from Southern Rhodesia into Austria for the future.

(b) From the Austrian Imports Statistics covering the last years it is evident that from the commodities listed in the above-mentioned resolution of the Security Council only tobacco has been imported into Austria in quantities worth mentioning. All required measures will be taken in order to ban the import of tobacco.

(c) Austria does not export to Southern Rhodesia arms, ammunition, military aircrafts, military vehicles or equipment for the manufacture and maintenance of arms or ammunition. Nor does Austria deliver oil or oil products to Southern Rhodesia. All necessary measures will be taken, in order to maintain this ban in the future.

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(d) Furthermore, the Federal Government of Austria is prepared to see to it that trade with Southern Rhodesia is given no opportunity to evade the economic sanctions of the Security Council through transactions on Austrian territory. No financial or other economic aid will be rendered to Southern Rhodesia by Austria.

The Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of his highest consideration."

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