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LETTER DATED 5 JANUARY 1967 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL*

With reference to your note of 17 December 1966 on the question of Southern Rhodesia, addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, I have the honour to make the following statement.

The Soviet Union, as is well known, has consistently supported the earlier resolutions on Southern Rhodesia adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly, and has carried them out scrupulously. In pursuance of these resolutions, particularly the Security Council resolution of 20 November 1965, the Soviet Union does not recognize the Smith racist régime and has not maintained and does not maintain any economic relations with Southern Rhodesia. In accordance with the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly on the question of Southern Rhodesia, the Ministry of Communications of the USSR has refused to maintain postal communications and telecommunications with Southern Rhodesia and has notified the Universal Postal Union and the International Telecommunication Union accordingly.

In accordance with its fundamental policy, the Soviet Union supports the just demands of the African countries for the adoption of the broadest and most effective measures for the immediate removal of the Smith racist régime from power in Southern Rhodesia and the granting of genuine independence to the people of Zimbabwe. The inalienable right of the people of Zimbabwe to freedom and independence in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was recently reaffirmed in resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly. Expressing the will of the overwhelming

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majority of States Members of the United Nations, the General Assembly at its twenty-first session reaffirmed the legitimacy of the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe against the racist régime in Southern Rhodesia and called upon States to render them moral and material support in their struggle for independence.

Despite the inadequacy of the Security Council resolution of 16 December 1966 on the question of Southern Rhodesia, which contains provisions for the application of only certain economic measures and disregards a number of important demands of the African countries, the Soviet Union attaches great importance to the fact that it for the first time provides for economic sanctions, which under the terms of the Charter of the United Nations are binding on all States. It goes without saying that the Soviet Union, which steadfastly supports the strict and categorical implementation of the United Nations Charter, will not waver in its compliance with this decision of the Security Council.

At the same time, the Soviet Union fully agrees with the African countries that no resolutions of the United Nations absolve the United Kingdom, as the administering Power, from full responsibility for the present situation in Southern Rhodesia and for the tragic fate of the people of Zimbabwe.

The Soviet Union stands firmly at the side of the people of Zimbabwe in their just struggle for genuine national independence, and is ready to co-operate with the African countries in extending all possible support to the Zimbabwe people in that struggle.

(Signed) N. FEDORENKO