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LETTER\* DATED 13 DECEMBER 1966 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE IVORY COAST ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith an extract from the statement made at Abidjan on 12 December 1966 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Ivory Coast concerning the Rhodesian question, which is now being discussed by the Security Council. I should be grateful if you would have this communication circulated as a Security Council document.

Accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) Siméon AKE  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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\* Received 27 January 1967.

EXTRACT FROM THE STATEMENT CONCERNING THE RHODESIAN QUESTION MADE AT ABIDJAN ON  
12 DECEMBER 1966 BY THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE IVORY COAST

"The Rhodesian question is a British affair and is wholly and exclusively the responsibility of the United Kingdom. The selective economic sanctions ordered by the Security Council at the request of the United Kingdom following the illegal declaration of independence, which were to crush the rebellion within three months, have proved a dismal failure.

"The rebel régime has already celebrated the first anniversary of its seizure of power. The failure of the sanctions has not come as a surprise to the African States, particularly the Ivory Coast, which, as a member of the Security Council, predicted last year that they would fail.

"It is to be feared that the second resort to the Security Council will prove as ineffective as the first, since it, too, is aimed only at the application of selective economic sanctions against Rhodesia.

"It will be recalled that every country in the world applied the first sanctions ordered by the Council, which provided, in particular, for an oil embargo and gave the United Kingdom the right to board any tankers that attempted to supply oil to Rhodesia. Every country, that is to say, except South Africa and Portugal.

"Hence, raising the question of sanctions once again must necessarily lead to a confrontation between the United Nations and those two countries, which loudly proclaim that, in the future as in the past, they will not apply economic sanctions against the Ian Smith régime. However, the United Kingdom makes no secret of its desire to avoid such a confrontation at any price.

"In these circumstances, it may well be asked whether the only result of the procedure being adopted will not - whether we wish it or not - be to strengthen the Rhodesian rebel régime, which is openly supported by South Africa and Portugal. Africa certainly cannot permit such a thing to happen.

"Therefore, if a terrible chain of circumstances which could plunge the world into the horror of a war in the heart of Africa is not to be set in motion, the United Kingdom must recognize the extreme gravity of the explosive situation which has thus been created in that region. It must realize that the only way in which it can put an end to the rebellion in its colony is by utilizing, on its exclusive

responsibility, the truly effective means still available to it - means which are no secret to the United Kingdom, since it has employed them in the past in other parts of the world.

"If the Security Council cannot act in this manner under Article 41 and, if necessary, under Article 42 of Chapter VII of the Charter, it must call upon the United Kingdom to assume all its powers and responsibilities as administering Power in its rebel colony.

"In that case, a solemn appeal should be addressed to the United Kingdom calling upon it to recognize that the policy of sanctions has failed and to take the appropriate vigorous measures which have been recommended to it on a number of occasions by the United Nations General Assembly and which are the only means by which the rebellion can be crushed."

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