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NOTE VERBALE DATED 16 FEBRUARY 1967 FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF FRANCE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL*

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to his notes PO 230 SORH (1) of 17 December 1966 and PO 230 SORH (1) of 13 January 1967 concerning the resolutions adopted by the Security Council on the question of the situation in Southern Rhodesia, has the honour to inform him as follows.

The position of France with regard to the problem created by the establishment of a régime in Southern Rhodesia which is in rebellion against constitutional authority has been presented clearly and unambiguously on various occasions, particularly in the United Nations: France recognizes no authority over Southern Rhodesia other than that of the United Kingdom and it intends to take, so far as it is concerned, all appropriate steps to facilitate the return to legality in that Territory.

Consequently, it refrained from recognizing the rebel régime, establishing diplomatic relations with it or assisting it in any way whatever, while adopting the following measures in the economic and commercial field as between the two countries:

The sale of oil and oil products by France to Rhodesia was prohibited by an order dated 25 December 1965;

The purchase of Rhodesian tobacco by the Régie française des tabacs, which has the monopoly for the manufacture and marketing of tobacco products in France, was halted;

The granting of licences for the import of Rhodesian sugar into France was suspended;

* Circulated as a Security Council document at the request of the representative of France.

French importers were recommended to stop obtaining their supplies of asbestos and chrome in Rhodesia;

Regular air services between France and Southern Rhodesia were suspended.

In the meantime, on 16 December 1966, Security Council resolution 232 was adopted.

The competent French administrations have just finished drafting administrative provisions which will very shortly be given official publication and which, in the main, are designed:

To prevent, by means of licensing procedure, the import of the following products originating in or coming from Rhodesia: asbestos, iron ore, chrome, pig-iron, sugar (for those sugar products not already subject to licence), copper, meat and meat products, hides and skins;

To notify French exporters to stop delivery of the following products to Southern Rhodesia: arms, ammunition of every kind, military aircraft, military vehicles, equipment and supplies for the manufacture and maintenance of arms and ammunition; all other types of aircraft and motor vehicles, and equipment and supplies for the manufacture, assembly and maintenance of aircraft and motor vehicles;

To prohibit chartering for the transport of these products to or from the Territory.

The statistics regarding imports and exports requested in the letter of 13 January 1967 will be forwarded to the Secretariat in a separate communication.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself, etc.
