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LETTER DATED 17 FEBRUARY 1967 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

With reference to your note No. PO 230 SORH (1) of 17 December 1966 concerning resolution S/RES/232 (1966) adopted by the Security Council on 16 December 1966 on the question concerning the situation in Southern Rhodesia, I have the honour to recall, upon instructions received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, that the position of the Turkish Government on the question of Southern Rhodesia was communicated to Your Excellency in my note dated 11 August 1966 (S/7463).

In that note I had stated Turkey's firm stand, as a matter of principle, against recognition of any situation brought about by use of illegal force and unconstitutional means.

The Turkish Government stands convinced that the unilateral declaration of independence in Southern Rhodesia is an act in contravention of constitutional authority and, as such, remains devoid of any legal validity. Furthermore, the declaration of independence envisages the perpetuation in Southern Rhodesia of racial discrimination to which Turkey is firmly opposed.

With these considerations in view, the Turkish Government has not and does not intend to recognize the illegal administration in Southern Rhodesia.

In fact, upon the unilateral declaration of independence the Turkish Government closed its Honorary Consulate in Salisbury.

The Republic of Turkey has no commercial and economic relations with Southern Rhodesia. The Turkish Government is taking the necessary measures to prevent Turkish firms from exporting to and importing from Southern Rhodesia the commodities mentioned in operative paragraph 2 of the Security Council resolution 232 (1966). Similarly, measures are being instituted to prevent the transportation by Turkish ships of goods destined for the illegal administration of Southern Rhodesia.

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I shall be grateful if Your Excellency will have this letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Orhan ERALP
Permanent Representative of Turkey
to the United Nations