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LETTER DATED 17 FEBRUARY 1966 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGERIA  
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On the authority of my Government, I have the honour to transmit hereunder the text of a protest Note delivered by my Government to the Government of the United States through its Embassy in Lagos on the opening of an information office in the United States of America by the illegal minority regime of Mr. Ian Smith of Southern Rhodesia:

"The Federal Military Government of Nigeria presents its compliments to the Government of the United States of America and has the honour to refer to the recent opening of an information office in the United States by the illegal minority regime of Mr. Smith of Rhodesia.

"The Nigerian Government has found this action deeply puzzling. It recalls the declaration of the United States Government on non-recognition of the illegal regime in Rhodesia. The Nigerian Government was impressed by consistent support given by the United States to measures taken by the British Government towards bringing down the illegal regime through diplomatic and economic sanctions.

"It has therefore found it difficult to understand the purpose of the present action of the United States Government which appears to be in direct conflict with its own objectives regarding the regime of Mr. Ian Smith. The sole purpose of an information office at this time could only be to confuse opinion in the United States and current international consensus about a government which the United Nations and the whole world have rejected. There can be no doubt of the psychological advantage of this action by the United States to Mr. Smith at a time when even his like-minded friends are deserting him and morale among his racist supporters in Rhodesia is reported low.

"The Nigerian Government wishes to express its concern about this apparent collaboration with the rebel regime in Rhodesia and hopes that the United States Government will show consideration for African and international feeling in this matter by ordering the closure of the information office in furtherance of its declared objective of bringing down the illegal regime".

I shall be grateful if you will be good enough to have this Note circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.

66-04446

(Signed) S.O. ADEBO  
Permanent Representative