



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/7249
11 March 1966

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 11 APRIL 1966 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On 9 April the Security Council passed its resolution number 221 which called upon the Government of the United Kingdom to prevent, by the use of force if necessary, the arrival at Beira of vessels reasonably believed to be carrying oil destined for Rhodesia. Following the passage of that resolution I undertook to report to the Council, through Your Excellency, on the action taken in pursuit of it.

In seeking from the Council the authority contained in resolution number 221, I had made clear the concern of my Government over the approach to Beira of the tanker "Manuela", which the United Kingdom had reason to believe was carrying oil destined for Rhodesia. At 07.20 G.M.T. on the morning of 10 April H.M.S. "Berwick" made contact with the tanker "Manuela" which was then 180 miles south of Beira. As the tanker made no reply to signal instructions, at 08.02 G.M.T. a British Naval Officer with escort was put on board the tanker with written instructions to the Master to divert from his course to Beira and was followed by a British naval armed party. The Master reported that his instructions were to proceed to Beira to make good engine defects. He was then informed in writing that, in view of the United Nations resolution, the tanker could not be allowed to proceed to Beira and that the British Government had authority, if necessary, to use force to prevent this. It was suggested orally that the tanker should make for Durban. The Master, however, maintained that he had insufficient fresh water to reach Durban, but agreed to proceed to Lourenço Marques.

By 03.30 G.M.T. on 11 April the "Manuela" was approximately 120 miles East North East of Lourenço Marques, proceeding south at twelve knots. At this time H.M.S. "Berwick" having withdrawn the boarding party turned north, leaving the "Manuela" on southward course.

I should be grateful if Your Excellency would arrange for this letter to be circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) CARADON