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LETTER DATED 15 NOVEMBER 1965 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

I am directed by the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs to refer to the invitation extended to the Government of the Republic of South Africa to be represented at the current discussions in the Security Council of the situation in Rhodesia, and to recall that whenever the question of Rhodesia has been debated in the United Nations the delegation of the Republic of South Africa has made it clear that the South African Government regards the issue as one of exclusively domestic concern in which the United Nations was not competent to intervene. The South African Government has also frequently emphasized that this is a matter on which it is in the best interest of all concerned that a policy of non-intervention be followed and it has accordingly refrained from commenting in any way on the substance of the problem.

It is also the view of the South African Government that it is in the best interest of a peaceful solution of the present conflict of views that every endeavour should be made to localize the issues involved and to discourage the extension of the controversy on to a much wider international plane.

Furthermore, the South African Government would emphasize that all the immediate neighbours of Rhodesia are confronted in the present situation with very practical problems arising from the need to maintain the regular intercourse which is implicit and inherent in the geographical and other essential facts governing the relationship between each one of them and Rhodesia.

In the circumstances outlined above, the South African Government does not see how it can accept the invitation to be represented at the current Security Council discussions.

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It is also relevant to refer to the procedural practice of the Council to which two members of the Council have called attention.

I should be grateful if you would inform the President of the Council accordingly.

Accept, etc.

(Signed) M.I. BOTHA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

