

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/6959
19 November 1965

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 19 NOVEMBER 1965 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF INDIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose the text of the statement made by His Excellency Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister for External Affairs, on 12 November 1965, in the Indian Parliament on the unilateral declaration of independence by Mr. Ian Smith in Southern Rhodesia.

I shall be grateful if this letter and the enclosure are circulated as Security Council documents.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) G. PARTHASARATHI
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of India
to the United Nations

FOREIGN MINISTER SARDAR SWARAN SINGH'S STATEMENT ON RHODESIA

Following is the text of the statement made by Foreign Minister Sardar Swaran Singh in the Lok Sabha (Indian Parliament) on 12 November on Rhodesia:

The Government of India have been shocked at the illegal seizure of power by the white minority government of Mr. Ian Smith in Rhodesia by unilateral declaration of independence on 11 November. This outrageous action in defiance of world opinion and accepted canons of civilized behaviour will have far-reaching consequences of most serious nature. The Government of India condemns this action in the strongest terms and expresses its full solidarity with and support of the African peoples of Rhodesia.

In regard to Rhodesia, our position has always been that legally, constitutionally, politically and morally Great Britain is responsible for the situation in that country. The legal arguments put forward in the past by the United Kingdom about their inability to interfere in Rhodesia have been rejected by the United Nations, which has always considered Rhodesia as a British colony. The General Assembly in its resolutions of 12 October and 5 November 1965, called upon the United Kingdom Government to take all possible measures, including use of force, to prevent unilateral declaration of independence, and, in the event of such declaration, to take all steps necessary to put an immediate end to the rebellion with a view to transferring power to a representative government in keeping with the aspirations of the majority of the people.

We have, therefore, repeatedly expressed the view that Great Britain must shoulder full responsibility for the future of Rhodesia so as to ensure that: (a) grant of independence is preceded by grant of full democratic rights to the people of Rhodesia on the basis of one man, one vote; (b) all repressive and unjust laws are repealed and all political prisoners are released so as to create a proper climate for a constitutional conference; (c) all steps being taken by the white minority government of Rhodesia to establish itself as an independent government are frustrated; and (d) Great Britain does not recognize any authority that might be set up in the sole interest of the minority.

The British Government have now taken certain measures to meet the situation created by unilateral declaration of independence. These are, however, belated measures, and, if firm action had been taken in the earlier stages, this serious

situation would not have developed. We consider it the British Government's duty to nullify and checkmate the move by Mr. Smith and his so-called government and to take necessary measures, including use of force as enjoined by the General Assembly resolution of 5 November, not to allow the rebel government to consolidate their illegal hold on 4 million people of Rhodesia.

The honourable members are aware that India has taken a leading part in the United Nations and other world forums in advocating the establishment of an independent Rhodesia on the basis of a duly constituted democratic government elected on the principle of one man, one vote. We took this stand also in the non-aligned nations Conference in Cairo in October 1964, and we have supported the resolutions passed by the Organization of African Unity on the subject. To demonstrate our solidarity with the African people struggling for the vindication of their legitimate rights and to register our protest against the policies pursued by the minority government, we withdrew our diplomatic mission from Salisbury on 7 May 1965.

The Government of India have in the past repeatedly declared that any unilateral declaration of independence by the white minority government will be illegal and unconstitutional and will not be recognized by the Government of India. We shall not, therefore, recognize the government which has unilaterally seized power and should a provisional government representing the people of Rhodesia, recognized by CAU, be established, the Government of India will also recognize it.

I would like to take this opportunity to declare, following a severance of diplomatic relations, a severance of all economic relations with Rhodesia with immediate effect until such time that a government of the people of Rhodesia is established. We express the hope that all other Governments would do likewise.

The Government of India has throughout this controversy given full support to the declarations made and the resolutions passed on the future of Rhodesia by OAU and the African Heads of State Conference and in the Special Committee of Twenty-Four and the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Conference of Non-Aligned Heads of State, and has co-sponsored all resolutions on Rhodesia. The Government of India would now in pursuance of its firm policy offer full co-operation to the Security Council, the General Assembly and OAU in whatever steps they may propose to deal with the problems posed by the unilateral declaration of independence. For this purpose, the Government of India would maintain close

/

touch with friendly Governments in Africa and of the Commonwealth and others so as to deal with this serious development.

The situation created by the unilateral declaration of independence is not only explosive but a serious danger to international peace. Here are all the elements of racism, reaction, fanaticism, disunity and exploitation of man by man. Here it is being planned that Angola, Mozambique and South West Africa are to be kept in one form or another in perpetual bondage. The Government of India, therefore, feels that the issue of the future of Rhodesia is an issue of the greatest importance in the whole process of decolonization, because the manner in which unilateral declaration of independence is now handled will have the most serious consequences for peace, stability and the progress of the whole of the African continent and of Asia and the world.

