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SECOND INTERIM REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED IN PURSUANCE
OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 253 (1968)

Addendum

1. At the 103rd meeting, on 29 June 1972, the representative of Argentina informed the Committee about the measures taken by his Government concerning a shipment of chrome ore of Southern Rhodesian origin aboard the SS Santos Vega.

2. The statement of the Argentine representative reads as follows:

"I asked for the floor in order to make a brief statement about the incident which occurred some time ago in which Rhodesian chrome was shipped to a port in the United States aboard the Santos Vega, a vessel flying the Argentine flag.

"My delegation would now like to report to this Committee the final measures taken by the Argentine Government with regard to this shipment, in accordance with the provisions laid down by the relevant national legislation.

"Before doing so, I wish to point out that, following statements by the Permanent Representative of Argentina at the 1645th meeting of the Security Council and by the Argentine delegation in this Committee, as reported in the relevant records, the Committee had already been informed of the immediate reaction of the Argentine Government on learning informally of the occurrence.

"The Argentine Government did this on its own initiative, in the absence of any formal request from the competent authorities of the United Nations. In the same way, a year ago the Argentine Government prevented a team selected by the Argentine Rugby Association from visiting Rhodesia; this fact was reported in the Argentine press and by the international news agencies.

"The attitude adopted by the Argentine Government on that occasion and now at this time is a reflection of its firm conviction that every effort should be made to ensure strict compliance with the sanctions with a view to obtaining the results sought by our Organization.

"Mr. Chairman, in accordance with instructions from my Government, I shall now outline the action taken with regard to the Santos Vega incident in accordance with Argentine domestic legislation.

"(a) On 3 March, the Under-Secretary of the Merchant Marine addressed a letter to the group consisting of the owners of Argentine merchant vessels. The text of this letter appears in the summary record of the Committee's 67th meeting, to which, for the sake of brevity, I would refer you.

"(b) On the same day, the Under-Secretary of the Merchant Marine addressed a similar note to Gootas Larsen Argentina, S.R.L., the company which owns the vessel in question. This note is also referred to in the Committee's summary records, which give the information that I myself could offer at the time.

"(c) After an investigation by the competent bodies with a view to deciding what action would be appropriate, within the possibilities offered by the Argentine legislation, it was decided to issue without delay a serious entreaty and warning to Gootas Larsen, Argentina, S.R.L.

"In deciding on the procedure to be followed, special consideration was given to the fact that this was the first and only violation committed by a vessel flying the Argentine flag and that, according to the explanations furnished by it, the company concerned was absolutely unaware of the origin of the shipment.

"Therefore, the Under-Secretary of the Merchant Marine sent the President of that company a strong admonition in writing, which we are convinced will ensure that such incidents do not recur.

"Without prejudice to what I have just reported, the Argentine authorities are at present engaged in reviewing the legislative measures currently in force with a view to preventing the recurrence of incidents such as the one in question, which my Government regrets, and strengthening as far as we are concerned the system of sanctions imposed by the United Nations.

"Mr. Chairman, in closing this statement informing the Committee of the definitive steps taken by my Government with regard to the very unfortunate Santos Vega occurrence, I wish to reiterate our support for the action taken by the Security Council to ensure a happy future for the people of Zimbabwe."

3. The Committee took note of the assurances given by the representative of Argentina that the measures taken by his Government to deal with the situation would ensure that violations of this nature by its nationals would not be repeated.

