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LETTER DATED 8 MARCH 1965 FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE
UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

* Also issued under symbol S/6229..

I have the honour, upon instructions from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to refer to Your Excellency's third person note OR 220 (1) INDO of 1 February transmitting a copy of a letter dated 20 January addressed to you by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia.^{1/}

Without prejudice to their views as to the circumstances which might legally justify a Member State in withdrawing from the United Nations, Her Majesty's Government wish to place formally on record their conviction that the reason for withdrawal advanced in the letter of 20 January from the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia - namely the election of a non-permanent member of the Security Council which the Government of Indonesia unilaterally considers as not fulfilling the requirements of Article 23 of the Charter - is not a circumstance so exceptional in nature as to justify the Government of Indonesia in withdrawing from the Organization.

Her Majesty's Government would at the same time wish to draw attention to the terms of Article 2, paragraph 6, of the Charter which provides that "the Organization shall ensure that States which are not Members of the United Nations act in accordance with [the] principles [contained in Article 2 of the Charter] so far as may be necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security". Amongst these principles, which are declaratory of general international law binding upon all States, are the principles obliging States to settle their international disputes by peaceful means and to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations. Since the Organization and its Members are obligated to act in accordance with the principle contained in Article 2, paragraph 6, of the Charter, and since the principles contained in Article 2 of the Charter constitute general principles of international law binding upon all States, Her Majesty's Government wish to place formally on record their view that a State which has expressed an

^{1/} A/5857 and Corr.1 and S/6157.

intention to withdraw from the Organization nevertheless remains bound to observe the fundamental principles embodied in Article 2 of the Charter relative to the maintenance of international peace and security.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(Signed) R.W. JACKLING
