



Eighteenth session
Agenda item 75

QUESTION OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA

Report of the Secretary-General

1. On 6 November 1963, the General Assembly adopted resolution 1889 (XVIII) on the question of Southern Rhodesia. Operative paragraph 8 of this resolution reads as follows:

"Requests the Secretary-General to continue to lend his good offices to promote conciliation in the Territory, as stated in paragraph 4 of resolution 1760 (XVII), and to report both to the General Assembly during the eighteenth session and to the Special Committee on the results of his efforts."

Operative paragraph 4 of resolution 1760 (XVII), to which reference is made in this resolution, requested the Secretary-General "to lend his good offices to promote conciliation among the various sections of the population of Southern Rhodesia by initiating prompt discussions with the United Kingdom Government and other parties concerned, with a view to achieving the objectives set out in this and all the other resolutions of the General Assembly on the question of Southern Rhodesia".

2. On 8 November 1963, the Secretary-General transmitted the text of resolution 1889 (XVIII) to the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations, and has subsequently discussed the question with him.

3. On 10 December 1963, the Secretary-General received the following letter from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom:

"I have the honour to refer to Your Excellency's letter of 8 November regarding resolution 1889 (XVIII) on the subject of Southern Rhodesia adopted by the General Assembly at its 1255th plenary meeting on 6 November.

"Your Excellency's letter was referred to my Government who have instructed me to reply as follows.

"The attitude of my Government to resolutions of the United Nations on Southern Rhodesia has been explained many times and Your Excellency will therefore, I am sure, understand the difficulties in the way of complying with them. Nevertheless, in view of the high regard which my Government has for your office and which my delegation has for you personally, I have thought it right to send you this reply.

"My Government have by their participation in the United Nations discussions on this question acknowledged the honest concern shown by many Members of the United Nations about the future of Southern Rhodesia and possible developments there. In spite of their attitude on the question of United Nations competence to deal with Southern Rhodesia my Government have thought it right to inform the United Nations of their policy in discharging their remaining obligations relating to Southern Rhodesia's constitutional status. In this connexion I would respectfully draw Your Excellency's attention, in particular, to my speech to the Security Council of 10 September 1963.

"My Government are mindful of the interest which has been shown in this question and the burden of responsibility which rests with them. It is their intention to work towards a solution to the problems which face the territory in a manner best calculated to achieve such a solution."

4. Bearing in mind the mandate given by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General has also undertaken conversations in New York with representatives of African countries in the hope that the Organization of African Unity may assist in preparing the ground for initiating discussions with the other parties concerned. The Secretary-General has informed the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom about these conversations and has invited the reactions of his Government.
5. In accordance with the General Assembly's resolution, the Secretary-General will continue to report to the Special Committee on the results of his efforts.