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### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Letter dated 27 October 1965 from the Permanent Representative of  
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations  
addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Please arrange for the TASS statement of 25 October 1965 to be circulated as an official document of the twentieth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

(Signed) N. FEDORENKO  
Permanent Representative of the USSR  
to the United Nations

# TASS STATEMENT

Reports have been received in the past few days to the effect that the imperialist and colonialist forces are preparing for a fresh crime against the peoples of Africa. There is talk of plans to turn Southern Rhodesia - the country of the Zimbabwe African people, who are cruelly oppressed by the United Kingdom colonizers and the local white racists - into a racist State on the model of the Republic of South Africa. The activity of the Southern Rhodesian white racists in this direction has grown especially intense since the recently completed round in the series of negotiations between their leader Ian Smith and the heads of the United Kingdom Government. On his return from London, Smith stated that the "independence" of Southern Rhodesia would be proclaimed in the very near future.

It is no secret from anyone that the retention of power in Southern Rhodesia in the hands of the white racists is part of a broader plan of the imperialist and colonialist forces, of the United Kingdom, United States, West German and other monopolies. Their aim is to set an obstacle in the path of complete liberation for Africa, to keep at least the southern part of the African continent under their sway.

A special role in this enterprise is assigned to Southern Rhodesia, which occupies an important position at the centre of the colonial front drawn up against the independent African States and the movements of national liberation of the African peoples.

The conversion of Southern Rhodesia into an "independent" white racists' State would unquestionably have intolerable, far-reaching consequences for Africa; it would set up a new breeding-ground of danger to international peace.

It is natural that, in relation to the question of Southern Rhodesia, particular attention should now be focussed on the position of the United Kingdom Government, which bears the responsibility for everything that happens in that colony and whose direct duty, after putting an end to the attempts to turn the country of the Zimbabwe into a racist State, is to grant its people genuine independence. Just what is that position?

The United Kingdom Government states not only that it does not support the Southern Rhodesian racists but that it even intends to oppose the execution of

their plans. However, activity in the ruling circles of the United Kingdom, at any rate until recently, indicates the opposite. As long ago as 1961, when the racist Constitution of Southern Rhodesia was introduced, the United Kingdom transferred authority over the country's African population to the white minority. After that the United Kingdom Government, notwithstanding the decisions of the United Nations, handed over to the local Southern Rhodesian authorities a large quantity of modern weapons. In fact the United Kingdom Government fostered the formation of an anti-African alliance between the Southern Rhodesian racists, the Portuguese colonizers and the inhuman regime in the Republic of South Africa, an alliance which now serves as the main buttress of colonialism in the southern part of Africa.

The anxiety shown by many African States in the Organization of African Unity in connexion with events in Southern Rhodesia is well understood in the Soviet Union. The Soviet people, who unswervingly support the colonial peoples' struggle for freedom and independence, are wholly on the side of the Zimbabwe people and support their demands for abrogation of the racist Constitution of 1961, for the release of all fighters for the country's freedom from the prisons and concentration camps, for elections on the basis of the democratic principle of "one man, one vote", and for the immediate application to the country of the Zimbabwe of the United Nations Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples.

In keeping with this position of principle the Soviet Union has supported, at the twentieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, a resolution demanding that the perpetuation of racist rule should not be permitted in Southern Rhodesia and calling upon all States Members of the United Nations not to accept the "independence" of Southern Rhodesia if it is proclaimed by the white minority.

The position taken in authoritative Soviet circles is that, if the Southern Rhodesian racists proceed to commit a criminal act and legalize their racist regime in Southern Rhodesia, the Soviet Union will not recognize that regime and will co-operate with the African countries in extending all possible support to the four-million-strong Zimbabwe people in their just and lawful struggle for freedom and genuine national independence.

25 October 1965