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

Letter dated 20 November 1965 from the Chairman of the delegation  
of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the  
General Assembly

I would request you to have the attached Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba concerning the situation in Southern Rhodesia circulated as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Ricardo ALARCON QUESADA  
Ambassador  
Chairman of the delegation of Cuba  
to the United Nations

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STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE  
REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF CUBA CONCERNING THE  
SITUATION IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA

The Revolutionary Government of Cuba has followed and continues to follow closely the development of the extremely grave situation created in Southern Rhodesia by the racist madman Ian Smith, rival of that champion of slavery Cecil Rhodes and boss of the white minority usurping the rights of the black majority in the country. The unilateral declaration of independence proclaimed recently by this minority constitutes a flagrant violation of the undertakings given by the administering Power and an intolerable flouting of the self-determination, independence, sovereignty and unity of the peoples of Africa, with the threat that this implies to peace on the African continent and throughout the world.

No one can be taken in with regard to the real aims of the manoeuvres carried out by so-called Prime Minister Ian Smith. The self-styled independence just proclaimed is designed first of all to strengthen and safeguard more than ever the freedom to exploit and discriminate against the black majority and to convert the country into a closed preserve similar to South Africa; and secondly, to be used as the spearhead of imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism against the liberation movements and the independent African States. The instigation for the action undertaken by Ian Smith comes undoubtedly first and foremost from American imperialism, which is closely linked with the interests and privileges of the usurping white minority.

The Revolutionary Government of Cuba duly expressed in the General Assembly of the United Nations its opposition to the present machinations and joined with the African States in repudiating any unilateral declaration of independence by Ian Smith's racist regime, though realizing the feeble nature of this type of pronouncement. Hence, while it approves and supports the sanctions adopted by the Security Council, it regards them as inadequate and to a large extent nugatory.

The effective and lasting solution of the present conflict is genuine independence for the oppressed and plundered black people of Southern Rhodesia, whose inalienable right to seize their independence by force is fully recognized

by the Revolutionary Government of Cuba, which likewise endorses and supports any sympathetic action taken in this direction by the African States.

The Revolutionary Government of Cuba reiterates its complete rejection of the racist regime set up by the white minority headed by Ian Smith, and resolutely proclaims its readiness to furnish the subjugated, exploited and wronged people of Southern Rhodesia with the necessary assistance, in whatever form, to enable it to carry on its struggle against imperialism and its agents.

Havana, 19 November 1965

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