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QUESTION OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA

Letter dated 28 April 1967 from the Permanent Representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to certain illegal actions by the International Telecommunication Union, a specialized agency of the United Nations, whose secretariat has circulated to ITU members a letter informing them that the Republic of South Africa has acceded to the International Telecommunication Convention of 1965 both on its own behalf and on behalf of the Territory of South West Africa. The Republic of South Africa took this action in spite of General Assembly resolution 2145 (XXI), which terminated the Mandate entitling that country to administer South West Africa.

Accordingly, the step taken by the Government of the Republic of South Africa in extending the International Telecommunication Convention to South West Africa is unlawful and has no legal force whatsoever. As far as the action of the ITU secretariat is concerned, it cannot but give rise to concern.

It should also be noted that the executive organs of certain other specialized agencies had previously taken action in violation of the decisions of United Nations bodies. At the twenty-first session of the General Assembly, the delegation of the Byelorussian SSR condemned in particular the decision of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development under which new credits were granted to the Governments of the Republic of South Africa and Portugal in disregard of Assembly resolutions 2105 (XX) and 2107 (XX). According to the Bank's own figures, its loans to the Republic of South Africa totalled \$241.8 million as at 28 November 1966.

A/6650
English
Page 2

In resolutions 2189 (XXI), 2184 (XXI) and 2202 (XXI), the General Assembly again appealed to the specialized agencies to refrain from granting assistance of any kind to the Governments of the Republic of South Africa and Portugal or to the illegal racist régime in Southern Rhodesia.

The specialized agencies of the United Nations, including the International Telecommunication Union, are bound to comply with these United Nations decisions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a General Assembly document.

(Signed) Guerodot G. TCHERNOUCHTENKO
