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Item 23 of the preliminary list*

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

Letter dated 22 May 1975 from the Permanent Representative of
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the "Congratulations to the African heads of State from the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Soviet Government on the occasion of Africa Liberation Day".

I should be grateful if you would circulate the attached text of the congratulations as an official document of the General Assembly under item 23 of the preliminary list for inclusion in the provisional agenda of the thirtieth regular session.

Y. MALIK
Permanent Representative of the USSR
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Congratulations to the African heads of State from the Presidium
of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Soviet Government on
the occasion of Africa Liberation Day

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Soviet Government send the people of your country heartfelt and friendly congratulations on the occasion of Africa Liberation Day.

This significant day is being observed by the African peoples at a time of great victories in the struggle for the final elimination of colonialism and racism. The last colonial empire - the Portuguese empire - has collapsed. The Soviet people, together with the peoples of Africa, express profound satisfaction at the liberation from the colonial yoke of the peoples of Guinea-Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands, Mozambique, Angola, São Tomé and Príncipe, and wish them success in the formation and strengthening of their independence.

However, the forces of imperialism and neo-colonialism have not laid down their arms. They are trying by every means to preserve the racist and colonial régimes in southern Africa and to prolong the policy of apartheid and violence.

In the Soviet Union, there is great appreciation of the activities of the Organization of African Unity and its efforts to strengthen the solidarity of the peoples of Africa and to accelerate the process of political and economic liberation of the African continent. The further struggle of the countries of Africa for free and independent development and for the complete elimination of the vestiges of colonialism will have a greater chance of success if those countries co-operate closely with the countries of the socialist community and with other detachments of the world anti-imperialist movement.

This year, the celebration of Africa Liberation Day coincides with the thirtieth anniversary of the epoch-making victory over fascism. This victory brought freedom to many countries of the world, exerted a profound influence on the entire course of post-war world development and accelerated the collapse of the colonial system. The Soviet people, who played a decisive role in the rout of Hitlerite Germany and its allies, appreciate at its true value the contribution made by the peoples of Africa to the common cause of the victory over fascism and militarism.

The growing participation of the African countries in the struggle for the strengthening of peace and for dependable security is an important factor of the contemporary international evolution. The notable improvements which have taken place on the world scene in favour of détente are making it possible to ensure the effective participation in world politics of all countries and peoples on an equal footing.

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The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Soviet Government wish the people of your country further success in the task of national development in conditions of durable and dependable peace on earth.

In obedience to the bidding of Lenin, the Soviet Union has given and will continue in the future to give every possible support to the African peoples in their struggle for the strengthening of independence and for economic and social progress.
