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REPORT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS
OF ALGERIA, SENEGAL AND ZAMBIA
ON ACTION TAKEN IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL
WITH REGARD TO THE RHODESIAN QUESTION

I - REPORT BY H.E. A. BOUTEFLIKA
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ALGERIA

REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE OAU
ON THE RHODESIAN QUESTION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In conformity with the decision taken by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government at Cairo on 16 July 1964 and reiterated by the Council of Ministers, both at the ordinary session of February-March 1965 in Nairobi and the extraordinary session of December 1965 in Addis Ababa, Algeria pursued its efforts with regard to Southern Rhodesia before the Security Council during the discussions on this problem held from 30 April - 6 May and from 11 - 20 November 1965.

I - Action taken by Algeria in April and May of 1965 -

The Algerian delegation stressed the serious nature of this problem and pointed out the danger that it represents for the equilibrium and stability of Africa, as well as for the maintenance of world peace. It was further explained that the decision to reconvene the Security Council, in the name of all African States, was caused by the deterioration of the situation and above all by the determination of the minority Government to break off its relations with Great Britain unilaterally, if necessary, and to inaugurate a system of the South African type based on the exploitation and oppression of the people of Southern Rhodesia.

From the very beginning of work, the United Kingdom representative expressed reservations as to the competence of the Security Council to deal with the question of Southern Rhodesia and recalled that Southern Rhodesia was, as he saw it, an autonomous colony with political jurisdiction over its internal affairs. He felt that the question of the elections of 7 May 1965 was the proper concern of the Salisbury Government. As for British policy in this regard, the United Kingdom representative explained that it was based on three principles :

1. The first of these principles was that the British Government, which had sole authority to grant independence to Southern Rhodesia, could not agree to any demand for independence that was unacceptable to the population of the country as a whole.

2. The second principle was that progress towards this goal should not be sought by unconstitutional or illegal methods, but through negotiations.

3. The third principle was that there should be no doubt in the mind of anyone as to the real constitutional position or the political and economic consequences that would result from a unilateral declaration of independence.

The Algerian delegation recalled, before the Security Council, the various decisions adopted by the OAU, by the Committee on Decolonization and by the General Assembly, in particular Resolution 1747 recognizing the non-autonomous status of Southern Rhodesia.

This resolution implies both the political and legal responsibility of the United Kingdom. Algeria also recalled that the people of Southern Rhodesia had rejected the Constitution of 1961 and that the African States consider this Constitution to represent the imposition of foreign domination upon the population of Southern Rhodesia.

Basing itself upon this principle, the Algerian delegation requested the members of the Security Council to recommend that the United Kingdom suspend the elections of 7 May 1965 and convene a Constitutional Conference to include all African nationalist parties, with a view to granting independence to Southern Rhodesia on the basis of universal suffrage. To this end a draft resolution, drawn up by the Ivory Coast, Jordan and Malaysia in collaboration with the delegations of Senegal and Algeria, was submitted to the Security Council.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by 7 votes (Bolivia, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Uruguay, China, Malaysia, Netherlands) with 4 abstentions (USSR, France, USA and Great Britain).

The Algerian delegation considered that the adoption, for the first time, of a resolution on the question of Southern Rhodesia by the Security Council was a positive first step towards settling this question in accordance with the desires of the African population. It appeared, however, that the British Government did not feel bound to apply this resolution and that it considered the path of negotiation to be the only possible one. It would, therefore, be desirable for increased pressure to be put upon the British Government by the African States, especially by those who are members of the

Commonwealth. It would also be necessary for the Liberation Committee to readapt its aid to the nationalist movements of Southern Rhodesia.

II - Action taken by Algeria in the Security Council in November 1965 -

During the discussions begun in the Security Council on the day of the unilateral declaration of independence, Algeria stated that it was no longer a question of assessing the threats made by Ian Smith, but rather of reacting to an action that in fact constituted a case of premeditated aggression perpetrated first against Africa, then against the international community.

After condemning this act of violence on the part of the Salisbury racists, Algeria once again pointed out that Great Britain, as the administering power responsible for development in Rhodesia, had consistently practised a policy of hesitation and sometimes even of complicity.

Algeria further pointed out that following a long period in which it had ignored and even rejected the competence of the United Nations, the British Government was now in contradiction with itself in appealing to the Security Council and that international opinion should not be misled by this attitude.

Algeria also recalled that as early as 30 April 1965, her Foreign Minister had suggested, before the Council, that urgent measures be taken in order to bring to an end the supremacy of a settler minority, and that on 6 May 1965 the Council had adopted Resolution S/202 recommending that Great Britain undertake consultations with all parties concerned in order to convene a conference of all political parties with a view to making new constitutional provisions acceptable to the majority of the people of Rhodesia, for the purpose of setting as early a date as possible for independence.

Algeria underscored the fact that since that time, the United Kingdom had taken no action other than the secret correspondence between Mr. Wilson and Ian Smith, followed by the negotiations in London with the Head of the Rhodesian Front - in the absence of those principally concerned, i.e. the representatives of the overwhelming African majority.

The Algerian delegation further remarked that by frequently asserting its determination not to use force, the British Government had assured the

European minority of impunity and opened the way for a unilateral declaration of independence, while under other and quite different circumstances, Britain had reacted with much greater energy against those who fought for the dignity of man and the independence of their countries.

Algeria added that by recognizing now the competence of the Security Council, the United Kingdom was trying to ask the United Nations to remedy a situation which had been created in Salisbury by Britain's own passivity. By offering the poisoned apple of the Rhodesian rebellion to the United Nations, Britain wished to engage the Organization in a process that must have serious consequences. Precedents had been created, by other colonial powers, which had led to intervention on the part of the United Nations. The result of this was that the Organization was still feeling the effects of the crisis that had shaken it.

Algeria further demonstrated that Great Britain was and remained uniquely responsible for the future of Rhodesia and for its attainment of independence, and that Britain should take vigorous measures to arrest and alter the course of events. Algeria considered that the economic sanctions announced by the Labour Government could only be of a preliminary nature.

For all these reasons, the Algerian delegation appealed to the United Nations to require the administering power to lead the people of Southern Rhodesia to self-determination and independence.

Algeria proclaimed once again that in faith with the principles for which she had fought so long, she would assume all her responsibilities and grant all necessary assistance to the people of Zimbabwe in their present decisive struggle.

On 20 November 1965, following the rejection of two draft resolutions presented respectively by the United Kingdom and the African Group - which were felt to be too extreme - a resolution proposed by the Latin-American Group was adopted (cf. S/Res. 217 - 1965).

The Security Council requests the Government of the United Kingdom to quell this rebellion of the racist minority and to take all appropriate measures to annihilate the authority of the usurpators. It imposes an economic blockade against Rhodesia and invites the Organization of African Unity to do everything in its power to assist the application of this resolution, in conformity with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

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