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LETTER DATED 24 JANUARY 1973 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request you to urgently convene a meeting of the Security Council, for the purpose of considering serious acts of aggression against my country, Zambia, committed by the white minority, illegal and racist régime in the British Colony of Southern Rhodesia.

In recent months, the gallant freedom fighters of Zimbabwe have registered great victories in their struggle for the liberation of their country. Their strides and the support that they now enjoy from the oppressed and segregated masses in their country have shocked the illegal régime. In collusion with the fascist Government of South Africa, the panic-stricken illegal régime closed the border between the British Colony of Southern Rhodesia and Zambia and imposed an economic blockade against my country, on 9 January 1973. This nefarious act was taken on the pretext that Zambia was supporting and harbouring freedom fighters. Smith was, therefore, as in the past, bent on finding a scapegoat in Zambia for the actions of freedom fighters within Rhodesia, an inevitable consequence of the imposition of his régime on the people of Zimbabwe.

In a further effort to blackmail the Government and people of Zambia into abandoning their support for the legitimate struggle of the people of Zimbabwe, the white minority, illegal and racist régime of Rhodesia has, since the economic blockade, committed numerous acts of subversion and sabotage against Zambia and its troops, reinforced by 4,000 others from apartheid South Africa, have been deployed along the 400-mile-long border. Those wanton men have committed a series of violations against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of my country. The Government and people of Zambia cannot sit idly by in the face of this grave provocation.

The foregoing, in the view of my Government, constitutes a serious threat to international peace and security. I therefore reiterate this request for an urgent meeting of the Security Council.

(Signed) P. J. F. LUSAKA  
Permanent Representative of the  
Republic of Zambia to the  
United Nations

