

Copy of letter sent to the Prime Minister, Monday, October 4, 1976. This letter was delivered at 4pm today, October 4, 1976.

October 4, 1976

Dear Mr Callaghan,

We have received reliable information from Mozambique that the authorities are in possession of war material captured from the armed forces of the illegal regime in Rhodesia. Amongst the items captured was equipment emanating from the United Kingdom and the United States.

The British items were a Ferret armoured car manufactured under licence in South Africa and a Transmitter/Receiver 'Transcriber' Apparatus, 'Model TR 15 A3' also manufactured under licence in South Africa by a subsidiary of the British company Racal Electronics Ltd. We understand, certainly in the latter case, that the equipment is of recent origin.

Both these items were captured following the raid on the Nhazonia refugee camp on August 9, 1976. We are certain that the British public will be shocked to discover that the Rhodesian army used British equipment when it massacred innocent Zimbabweans.

It is apparently still possible for British equipment to be manufactured under licence in South Africa and then supplied to the illegal Rhodesian regime, thus circumventing the United Nations' mandatory sanctions as well as the arms embargo against South Africa.

We, therefore, take this opportunity to urge the Government to take immediate measures to ensure that no South African military equipment is supplied to the illegal Smith regime. In any case, we believe that Her Majesty's Government should take steps to withdraw licences and patents supplied to South Africa which permit it to manufacture military and police equipment and thereby tighten the arms embargo.

We would also request that the British Government raise with the United States authorities the two pieces of United States equipment which they have captured, namely a Cessna 172 and a Harvard bomber, to ascertain whether this equipment reached Rhodesia in breach of sanctions and the United States arms embargo.

These developments, together with the other breaches of the arms embargo which we have recently drawn to your attention, demonstrate the importance of the arms embargo and the obvious need for it to be made mandatory by the United Nations. We hope that HMG will support this view.

We would be pleased to assist in providing you with any further information that you may require and look forward to an early reply.

Yours sincerely,

Abdul S. Minty  
Honorary Secretary, Anti-Apartheid Movement