United States Senate

, 1966

Dear:

I have asked the Secretary of State for a personal report on the matter of our policy towards Rhodesia since there appears to be a double standard in that our allies continue trading with the Communists and at the same time expect us to cooperate with them in their policy towards Rhodesia. Be assured, this will continue to have good attention.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Dear:

The Export Control Act gives the President authority to impose a boycott on countries not friendly to the United States. Rhodesia is not regarded as a friendly country and in fact is not regarded as an independent state at all since it has not been recognized by any other government. It is, therefore, not considered a foreign country but rather as an illegal regime where power has been temporarily usurped.

In November 1965, the State Department advised the British Government that the United States does not recognize the rebel regime and supports a solution of the Rhodesian problem that will be just and acceptable to the population as a whole.

Also in November 1965, the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution calling upon all states to refrain from any assistance or encouragement to the illegal regime and in particular to refrain from providing it with weapons and military equipment. The resolution also called for breaking economic relations with Southern Rhodesia, including an embargo on oil and petroleum products. Ambassador Goldberg then announced that the U.S. would impose an arms embargo on Rhodesia in support of British action.

In December of 1965, Britain issued an order making it illegal to supply petroleum products to Southern Rhodesia. Since the United States has at all times recognized the sovereignty and legal authority of Great Britain in Southern Rhodesia, this country therefore undertook to comply with the British order.

Since then the British Government has issued additional orders covering items other than oil and petroleum and also issued an order prohibiting the export of tobacco from Rhodesia, and the United States Government recommended to traders in tobacco in this country to comply with the order.

The sum and substance of all this is that we do not recognize the Smith regime in Rhodesia and seek the development of an independent government in Rhodesia based on the principle of self-government. Generally speaking, the United States has followed this policy over a long period of time. The export controls, therefore, are imposed to further the foreign policies of this country.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen