

consequences for Namibia and its neighbours. Measures to build confidence between those directly concerned and to reduce conflict in the region are urgently needed. We would support initiatives to that end for, as the Secretary-General has said, "It is in the interest of absolutely no one to have this situation continue".

It is important that the Government of South Africa recognize this basic fact. Just days before this debate, South African troops again violated the sovereignty of Mozambique. We condemn that attack in Maputo. We also condemn acts of violence or terrorism wherever they may occur.

South Africa through its use of force cannot seek unilaterally to reshape the region. Boundaries and sovereignties must remain inviolate: that is the only basis for peace in the region. The President of Angola has reaffirmed that his country has no desire to rely on foreign troops nor keep them on its soil once Angola is no longer threatened. The first step towards a settlement must surely be the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of South African forces from Angola. Its presence there cannot be justified in terms of international law and practice.

The Secretary-General has noted that South Africa continues to make the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola a condition for its withdrawal from Namibia. South Africa cannot, however, legitimize its illegal occupation of Namibia by raising other issues. As the Canadian Deputy Prime Minister/Secretary of State for External Affairs stated in his speech to the 38th General Assembly, Namibia should have its independence regardless of what happens or what does not happen in Angola.

Canada admires the patience of those leaders in the region who have worked so hard - for so long - for the implementation of Resolution 435. We take their patience and their dogged persistence as our own example. We shall not cease our efforts. The implementation of Resolution 435 during 1984 must be our objective and that of the Council.

Mr. President, we have come a long way since 1978. We have unfortunately some distance to go. I hope that the Council's deliberations will lead to practical steps to strengthen confidence in the region and hasten Namibia's independence. Its independence is no dream; it is inevitable reality. Our goal must be to ensure that it comes soon and peacefully. Thank you Mr. President.