

Affairs, Joe Clark, issued a statement condemning the action. "We regard unilateral measures taken by the South African Government in relation to the establishment of constitutional bodies and the transfer of power in Namibia", stated Mr. Clark, "to be null and void".¹ The Secretary of State pointed out that:

The only agreed basis for internationally recognized independence for Namibia is UN Security Council Resolution 435, to which Canada is firmly committed. Under Resolution 435 the constitution for an independent Namibia is to be drafted by representatives of the Namibian people chosen in a free and fair election. The Government of Canada considers that any action taken by a so-called interim government for Namibia to be without effect.

Mr. Clark also noted that the South African action sent a negative message to the international community: "Canada deplores this step as it suggests that South Africa does not intend to proceed promptly with the implementation of Resolution 435."

In a speech to the UN Security Council on 13 June 1985, Canada's Permanent Representative to the UN, Stephen Lewis, echoed Mr. Clark's concerns and reiterated the previous Government's rejection of the linkage between a withdrawal of South African authorities from Namibia and Cuban troops from Angola. This condition, "which has no warrant in international law, which is incompatible with Resolution 435, and which has been rejected by this Council" is, Mr. Lewis argued, "a deliberate obstacle...To hold Namibia hostage to what this Council has previously described as 'irrelevant and extraneous issues' is palpably outrageous."²

Ambassador Lewis also noted that the Contact Group had been less than successful in its endeavour to bring independence to Namibia. Despite its

¹ DEA, Communique, No.51, 19 April 1985.

² DEA, Statements and Speeches, No.85/3, 13 June 1985.