

On May 3, 1983 the Council mandated the Secretary-General to undertake consultations with the parties to the proposed cease-fire, with a view to securing the speedy implementation of Security Council Resolution 435. His subsequent efforts, as outlined in the Secretary-General's report dated August 29, 1983 reflect more than just one visit to Southern Africa. They reflect a continuing commitment on the part of the Secretary-General and his staff to this just cause.

The Secretary-General in his report has outlined his discussions both before and during his visit to Southern Africa. These discussions demonstrated the Secretary General's commitment to carry out, faithfully and conscientiously, the mandate entrusted to him by the Council last May.

We welcome the assurances from the Government of South Africa that the choice of electoral systems, whether proportional representation or the constituency system, would be made, and would be communicated, at an early stage in the implementation process. That is essential to success of the UN Plan. We are glad that agreement has been reached on the proposed composition of UNTAG and that the remaining questions regarding its status have been settled. We believe in addition that the Secretary-General's assurances that all parties would be treated equally in the implementation of Resolution 435 have effectively resolved this matter. We also note the positive statement that the President of SWAPO made to the Secretary-General. We welcome the cooperation of all parties involved in these discussions and these important steps forward.

Now that the outstanding issues under Resolution 435 have been resolved, the question is where do we go from here. My government hopes that the Secretary-General will have the opportunity to build constructively on his recent success. We believe that he should be free to use all the means at his disposal to pursue early independence for Namibia, and thereby to foster peace and stability in Southern Africa. To this end we would strongly urge that unrealistic deadlines be avoided while seeking implementation of Resolution 435 in 1984.

The question of peace and stability in the region is important. My government fully shares the concerns expressed by the Secretary-General in his report. The instability and conflict arising from South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia has had disastrous