

Finally, I would suggest to all who have followed the debate that the future we envisage will, despite the fears and suspicions which hamper progress now, strengthen peace and security in southern Africa. Those of us who have sought a peaceful, negotiated solution in Namibia will not lose interest once our objective is achieved. I would recall, in this context, that the heads of government of the Commonwealth in 1975 declared their readiness to see Namibia join their club after independence. I am certain that they would be only too happy to receive a response to that invitation from the government of a free and independent Namibia in the near future.

Bearing in mind the particular responsibility of the United Nations and the Security Council for Namibia, my government hopes this debate and the adoption of a constructive resolution will hasten the implementation of Resolution 435. The people of Namibia deserve peace, and independence. They must be allowed to choose their future at the earliest possible date.

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