

(thereby implying de facto recognition of South Africa's rule, contrary to the 1971 ICJ ruling), the Government had imposed limited economic sanctions and it did draw up a voluntary code of conduct for Canadian companies operating in South Africa and Namibia.

Canada also played an active role in the Contact Group's initial efforts. But when the negotiations failed to yield concrete agreements with Pretoria, the process began to lose strength. South Africa pressed ahead with the 1978 elections despite the fact that these undermined the UN plan. No new Western sanctions were imposed. With the announcement of Washington's policy of "constructive engagement" in 1981, the role of the Contact Group decreased in importance. In 1982 the withdrawal of South Africa from Namibia was made conditional by Washington and Pretoria on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. In 1983 the Security Council rejected this linkage, while France suspended its membership in the Group.

Pretoria has meanwhile been proceeding with its own plan to modify its presence in Namibia. In 1980 it began creating the South West African Territorial Force (SWATF), a local force designed to assume the burden of directly fighting SWAPO. From November 1983 to February 1984 it conducted Operation Askari, an invasion of southern Angola which destroyed numerous SWAPO bases and refugee camps. In April 1985 it installed a transitional government to replace direct rule which was re-established when the DTA Government collapsed in 1982. In March 1986 Pretoria announced that it would begin implementing UN Resolution 435 on 1 August 1986 on condition that Cuban troops were withdrawn from Angola.

Current Canadian Position

When the Government of South Africa announced the establishment of an interim government in Namibia, Canada's Secretary of State for External