

Resolution 385, which continues to have the full support of our five governments, has therefore constituted the basis for the joint efforts which we launched last spring in an informal attempt at exploring with all the parties concerned the possibilities of a solution to the Namibian problem. We have been under no illusion as to the difficulties inherent in such an undertaking but it has been and remains our hope that a thorough exploration on our part of all relevant factors would identify practical means that would enable the parties to make possible the implementation of Resolution 385. Thus our goal has been to prepare the way for all the people of Namibia to exercise fully their long delayed right to self-determination with the assistance of the U.N. through truly democratic elections on a territory-wide basis.

Discussions with the parties began in April. There have so far been three rounds of discussions with the South African government. A second round of discussions with SWAPO is currently in progress. Consistent with the critical role of the U.N. in respect of Namibia, we have kept Secretary-General Waldheim and the U.N. Council for Namibia informed of our efforts. We have also been in close touch with the front line states and other African states.

To date, we can report that some progress has been made. We believe that our initiative has forestalled the plan to establish an interim government on the basis of the Turnhalle Constitution and that we have laid the foundations for a U.N. involvement.

It should be clear from our efforts thus far that no lasting peaceful solution to the Namibian problem is possible unless it has the full backing of the international community. It is also clear that the parties directly concerned have a unique opportunity to achieve such a solution, despite the distrust which has built up over the years. The elements of a solution are to be found in Resolution 385 and we, for our part, will persevere in our efforts to remove the remaining obstacles to its implementation. It is our hope and expectation that all concerned will endeavour to facilitate the achievement of this objective and that by next year, an independent Namibian government, representative of all Namibians, will take its rightful place among us in this hall.

5. Activities of Foreign Economic and Other Interests in Non-Self-Governing Territories

The Fourth Committee discusses the effects of foreign economic interests on non-self-governing territories every session. In 1975 Canada supported the resolution on this issue but in 1976 and 1977, the resolution became politicized. The resolutions on "foreign economic interests" in 1976 and 1977 contained condemnations of all foreign investment whatever the circumstances and of Western countries which were not acceptable. Canada voted against the resolutions in both years.