

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, addressed the first regular session of the General Assembly on September 26, 1973. He first discussed three key international issues: problems in Southern Africa, the Middle East dispute and violation of human rights. Mr. Jamieson reviewed recent developments concerning an internationally acceptable settlement of the Namibian question, and urged the South African government and Namibian leaders to reconsider the South African decision to proceed unilaterally with elections in Namibia. He mentioned Security Council actions and related Canadian policy towards South Africa. He also discussed Canada's position regarding the situation in Rhodesia. Here is what he said about the problems in southern Africa.

PART I

CANADA AT UNGA XXXIII

Eighteen months ago, the UK, France and the Federal Republic of Germany in a concerted effort to bring about an internationally acceptable settlement in Namibia. Since that day a great deal of progress has been made. Painstaking negotiations, and the personal participation of foreign ministers at key junctures in the negotiation process, have demonstrated what can be achieved when political will and a determination to succeed are brought to bear upon seemingly intractable problems. The Western Five members of the Security Council were able to draw up a compromise proposal which I was privileged to introduce on April 25 to the Assembly's Special Session. At that same time, I was able to announce South Africa's acceptance of the plan. In July, the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) also accepted the Western plan and we were thus able with the full cooperation of the parties and the active support of the African front-line States to take in the Security Council the first step towards the full implementation of our proposals. It was, therefore, with considerable optimism and satisfaction that we followed the progress of the Special Norway Mission which the Secretary-General dispatched to Namibia, under the leadership of his Special Representative, Mr. Martti Ahtisaari.

When, on the basis of the findings of this Mission, the Secretary-General published his report and his recommendations as to how best we could discharge the mandate given to him by the Security Council, we had every reason to believe that the United Nations finally had in its hands the instrument capable of putting an end to 30 years of controversy and of bringing Namibia to independence by an internationally-acceptable manner. It was, therefore, with shock and dismay that we heard last week of the South African Government's decision to proceed unilaterally with elections in the territory.

Neither of the reasons invoked by the South African Government is valid. First, I wish to declare most categorically that the Secretary-General's report is fully in line with the original Western proposal. That report is a professional assessment of the human and financial means required to perform the tasks which our proposal calls for. Secondly, apart from a few extreme elements, all of those who have a claim to represent sectors of the Namibian population have already expressed their acceptance of UN involvement in the independence process. We simply cannot accept that there is now a need for some form of further consultation