

SWAPO, South Africa and the Contact Group. The legitimate interests of all the parties involved in the settlement plan have been weighed and taken into account.

These efforts have been made against the background of South Africa's illegal occupation of the territory. What remains to be achieved is its acquiescence and participation in the implementation of the UN Plan.

As the Secretary-General has pointed out, South Africa has made another issue in the region — outside the mandate of the Contact Group — a condition for the implementation of Resolution 435. These two matters have a relationship only in so far as one of the parties chooses to draw them together. Canada, for its part, does not accept the concept that the resolution of one should be conditional upon the resolution of the other. It is nonetheless evident that these regional security concerns exist and pose an obstacle. We understand they are being dealt with separately in bilateral talks. We hope that they may be resolved quickly — with full respect for the sovereignty of the states concerned — and that the people of Namibia may be given the opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination.

Our regret at past delays in the implementation of Resolution 435 does little to comfort those who must still face dislocation, conflict and the denial of political and human rights in Namibia. It is against this background that I should like to make three points:

The first is that an immediate, peaceful settlement is unquestionably in the best interests of all of the people of Namibia and of the countries bordering Namibia, including South Africa. That must be our guiding consideration. There is no other factor which can have equal weight with my government or with this Council.

Second, it is not a question of whether Namibia will achieve independence. It is a question of how soon it will do so and under what conditions. Canada will continue to exert its best efforts to ensure that the transition to independence comes soon and in conditions of peace.

That brings me to my third point. The people of Namibia have suffered in recent years not only from continuing conflict but also from conditions of uncertainty and protracted drought. They will face many challenges following independence, including the momentous challenge of developing their country and bringing benefits to all of its people. My government's hope is that they may be enabled to address those challenges in the context of co-operation within the region and with the support of all the countries which have shown a lively interest in the future of Namibia.

So far as Canada is concerned, I wish to leave no doubt that we should be happy to develop measures of economic co-operation with an independent Namibia, as we have with Zimbabwe and other countries following their independence. We look forward to that opportunity and also to the prospect of stability in the region. For we believe that the establishment of an independent and fully representative government in Namibia and the end of conflict will also increase opportunities for economic co-operation throughout the region.