

of the territory. Thus the proposal calls for a comprehensive cessation of all hostile acts. It makes provision for the maintenance of law and order and for the introduction of a military section of a United Nations Transition Assistance Group combined with the phased withdrawal of all but 1500 South African soldiers. These 1500 men will be restricted to one or two bases and monitored by the United Nations pending their withdrawal. We would argue for a firm and specific mandate to ensure observance of the provisions of the agreement.

We believe these positions are adequate for security. But they will obviously have to be applied in light of developing conditions. It is our hope that the parties and the surrounding states will take the necessary measures to assure that the security provisions of the proposal are strictly adhered to. For our part, as members of the Security Council, we would view with grave concern any actions during the transition period that could threaten the security of Namibia and its prompt achievement of independence, and we would act accordingly.

Once the elections have been certified, the constituent assembly will meet to consider the remaining steps towards independence, including the drafting of the future constitution of Namibia.

Mr. President, the assembly will note that this proposal places its full confidence in the ability of the United Nations to discharge the substantial and complicated task involved in assisting the process of the Namibian elections and transition to independence. We believe that the United Nations will show itself equal to this task. The important role that it will play in guaranteeing the stability and security of the territory with the co-operation of the de facto administration can result in the impartial process which is envisaged. It is important to be aware that initially some Namibian parties were sceptical about the ability of the United Nations to undertake this task with impartiality. We believe that they have been persuaded that on each occasion that the United Nations, under the guidance of the Secretary General, has been involved in a process either of peacekeeping or of assisting a territory to independence, it has done so with competence and impartiality. The proposal calls for free and fair elections in accordance with Security Council Resolution 385 and it is to this task that the United Nations Transition Assistance Group will address itself.

Mr. President, the General Assembly will have noted that we have omitted from our proposal the difficult question of Walvis Bay for the reason that we see no way of settling the question in the context of the present negotiations. We feel strongly, however, that the issue should not delay the long sought-after independence of Namibia. We consider