



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

communiqué

No: 94
No.:

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE: OCTOBER 19, 1978

UNILATERAL STATEMENT BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE FIVE WESTERN NATIONS ON THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A FIXED DATE FOR THE ELECTION AND THE MAINTENANCE OF AN EFFECTIVE CEASE-FIRE.

The fixing of a date is necessary to provide a firm framework for the electoral process and to reduce uncertainty. The proposals of the Western Five adopted by the Security Council, establish a number of pre-requisites before the official political campaign starts. In this connection the South African Government stressed that the withdrawal of South African troops would only begin upon cessation of hostilities. The Five pointed out that this would be brought about following notification to the Secretary-General of an agreed cease-fire. No party can be allowed to delay unilaterally the holding of United Nations supervised elections. If the agreed date of the election appeared to be at risk through acts of violence of intimidation or any other failure to carry out the provisions of the proposals, it would be for the Secretary-General to bring the matter immediately to the Security Council, and the Governments of the Western Five undertake to support necessary action in the Security Council. The Five Western Governments undertake to maintain observers in Windhoek during the transitional period and to do everything possible to ensure the implementation of the proposal leading to elections on the agreed date. The Five Foreign Ministers are confident that the Security Council would respond promptly and effectively to any situation where the agreed date of the election appeared to be at risk and would maintain that election date and that there will therefore be no case for any unilateral action.

