

time to falter in our commitment or our efforts. It is rather a time of persist, to build on what we have already achieved, and to succeed.

I should like, in this context, to thank the Secretary-General for his recent report which summarizes the activities of those involved in the negotiations for a settlement over the past two years. All members are well aware that when the Secretary-General took office he identified Namibia as one of his highest priorities. His frequent consultations and expressions of concern for the issue have added to the international pressure for a solution.

Recognition should also be given to the dedication shown by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Namibia, Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, and to the Secretariat as a whole. The work they have done in preparing for the civilian and military components of the UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) has contributed immensely to the readiness of the United Nations to undertake the task which will face it on the day of implementation.

The special contribution of the Front Line States and Nigeria also deserves recognition. They have been unceasing in their efforts and have afforded close co-operation in the negotiations aimed at the early implementation of Security Council Resolution 435. The constructive attitude of our African partners has been important throughout our latest talks.

Their co-operation enabled substantial progress to be made during the intensive consultations last summer. During those consultations, difficult issues were addressed and resolved to the satisfaction of those involved in the negotiating process in Washington and New York:

– Understandings were reached on how to ensure the fairness and impartiality of the settlement process; and on the deployment of UNTAG.

– All parties agreed to a set of principles concerning the Constituent Assembly and the Constitution for an independent Namibia. These have been published in a Security Council document.

As a result of these consultations the only issues which remain outstanding are, first, the electoral system to be employed in choosing the members of the Constituent Assembly (and the context of the decision has been defined); and, second, some technical questions related to the composition of the military component of UNTAG.

In the light of the progress made, representatives of the Front Line States, Nigeria, SWAPO (South West African People's Organization) and the Contact Group met the Secretary-General on September 24, 1982 to report on the understandings which had been reached and to indicate what remained to be done. It was common to all that no insuperable obstacles remained in the context of Resolution 435.

Over the years of this negotiation, many issues have been addressed by one side or the other. Many obstacles have been overcome through discussions involving the United Nations, the Front Line States,