

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, SWAPO also accepted the Western plan and we were thus able with the full co-operation 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 Survey 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 that Mission the Secretary-General published his report and his recommendations as to how best he 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 in 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 clearly expressed their acceptance of UN involvement in the independence process. The churches have done so, the Namibia National Front has done so and, as recently as September 15, the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance has done so. We simply cannot accept that there is now a need for some form of further consultation.