

News Release

Communiqué

Department of
External
Affairs



Ministère des
Affaires
extérieures

No. 031

February 16, 1989.

NAMIBIA: IMPLEMENTATION OF U.N. PLAN

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, welcomed the adoption today of Security Council Resolution (632) which approves and sets in motion the United Nations plan intended to lead Namibia to independence on April 1, 1990. The plan calls for the establishment in Namibia of a large civilian and military operation to be known as the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) which will lay the groundwork for UN supervised elections.

"I am very pleased that Canada, as a major sponsor of the original UN plan for Namibia under Security Council Resolution 435 in 1978, has now helped to launch its long-awaited implementation. This milestone in UN history is intended to end a century of foreign occupation in Namibia and enable the Namibian people to assume their fundamental rights to nationhood through free and fair elections."

The military component of UNTAG will be deployed initially at a lower level than foreseen in 1978. The UN Secretary General indicated in his explanatory statement that he has been assured of the Security Council's fullest cooperation should additional deployments from reserves be needed up to the original maximum. The civilian component of UNTAG, most directly involved in monitoring the elections, has been increased from 1978 levels. Noting the size and complexity of the operation, the Minister recognized the challenges that lay ahead for UNTAG during the coming year.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada