

that declaration which reflects our commitment to work for the eradication of the evil of racism. We reject policies designed to perpetuate apartheid and continue racial discrimination.

We are also grieved that the people of Namibia are still denied their independence after a century of colonial rule. South Africa must set a date to implement Namibia's independence under Security Council resolution 435.

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Mr. President, I speak here today as a Foreign Minister conscious of the frustrations of this Organization and the limits on its actions. But I first encountered the United Nations as an idea, not an institution - an idea which reached into the comfortable corner of the world where I was born, let me know that famine and war and disease were part of daily life in most of the world, and gave me hope that there was a way we could fight those evils. Viewed from that perspective, the United Nations can be judged, not by volumes of repetitive debates, but by the millions of children who are fed and clothed and living; the wars that were averted or limited or postponed; the hundreds of millions of human lives that have been protected or improved because the idea of the United Nations connects people who can help people who need help.

The idea of the United Nations is as important now as at any time in our history. It forces the comfortable out of complacency. It lifts the desperate beyond despair. It allows today's frustrations to be seen in the light of four decades of lives improved, conflicts reduced, perspectives enlarged.

Mr. President, support for the U.N. must be based upon a clear-sighted view of current realities. When we list the things that have gone wrong with the U.N., we should not forget the things that have gone right. When we rejoice in the things that have gone right we often under-estimate the political and economic problems ahead. We must avoid the trap of blaming the United Nations for our own sins and omissions. If we collectively are unable to revitalize the U.N. system, we shall have to resign ourselves to watching it wither away. That must not happen.

1985, our fortieth anniversary year, can be a turning point in the life of the United Nations. A broad coalition of "Friends" of the U.N. must join forces to renew the effectiveness of global institutions. My Government will do its utmost, working with other member states and the