



Statements and Speeches

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THE SITUATION IN NAMIBIA

Speech by the Honourable Gérard Pelletier, Permanent Representative, Ambassador for the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations, to the Security Council, New York, May 31, 1983.

Mr. President,

I am grateful to you and to the Council for giving Canada the opportunity to participate in this debate, the subject of which is of critical importance not only to the lives and future of the people of Namibia but to all in southern Africa. It is a matter of particular satisfaction to do so under your presidency of the Council in view of the long-standing co-operation between our two countries. I am confident that under your distinguished guidance the Council will reach a constructive result and will bring us closer to our goal, the freedom and independence of Namibia.

Before turning to that issue, I want to join earlier speakers in expressing dismay at the recent South African attack on targets in Mozambique. Canada condemns that attack in violation of Mozambique's sovereignty just as it condemns the recent act of violence in South Africa. Both involved loss of life and injury to innocent victims. This pattern must be broken. We know change must and will come in South Africa; we hope it comes soon and in peace. For acts of terrorism and raids across national boundaries can only lead to the heightening of tension in the region and the risk of broader conflict.

For us in this Council, these events must also underline the urgent need to end the conflict in Namibia, and to implement the UN Settlement Plan.

Mr. President, as one of the initiators and drafters of the UN Settlement Plan for Namibia in 1978, Canada deeply regrets that the Security Council is still seized of the issue five years later, and that the people of Namibia are still unable to exercise their right to self-determination. We appreciate and share the concerns of the international community which have prompted the call for this Security Council meeting.

Earlier this week, the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom, Sir John Thomson, gave a comprehensive account of the negotiating history of this issue. He outlined the special initiatives that led to the formulation of the UN Settlement Plan and Security Council Resolution 435. He spelled out the committed effort undertaken by the Contact Group following the setback at Geneva to resolve the remaining problems and to clear the way for the implementation of the UN plan. I shall not therefore deal at length with the history of the issue. Suffice it to say that the intensive efforts which have been devoted to these negotiations during the five years have resulted in a substantial body of agreement.

That body of agreement has unfortunately fallen short, till now, of what is needed to secure implementation of a plan which no one challenges in itself. As Sir John suggested, this is not, however, the
