

satisfy himself that all conditions existed to ensure free and fair elections. Thus, he would see to it that all repressive measures or regulations were repealed, all freedoms restored and all Namibian political prisoners or detainees, wherever held, released so that they could participate fully and freely in the electoral process.

Free elections cannot be held in conditions of repression; neither can they be held in conditions of insecurity and intimidation. Until an independent Namibia assumes responsibility for its own security, the international community must insist that there be adequate means to assure law and order and the overall security of the territory. Thus the proposal calls for a comprehensive cessation of all hostile acts. It makes provision for the maintenance of law and order and for the introduction of a military section of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group, combined with the phased withdrawal of all but 1,500 South African soldiers. These 1,500 men will be restricted to one or two bases and monitored by the United Nations pending their withdrawal. We would argue for a firm and specific mandate to ensure observance of the provisions of the agreement.

We believe these positions are adequate for security. But they will obviously have to be applied in the light of developing conditions. It is our hope that the parties and the surrounding states will take the necessary measures to assure that the security provisions of the proposal are strictly adhered to. For our part, as members of the Security Council, we should view with grave concern any actions during the transition period that could threaten the security of Namibia and its prompt achievement of independence, and we should act accordingly.

Once the elections have been certified, the constituent assembly will meet to consider the remaining steps towards independence, including the drafting of the future constitution of Namibia.

The Assembly will note that this proposal places its full confidence in the ability of the United Nations to discharge the substantial and complicated task involved in assisting the process of the Namibian elections and transition to independence. We believe that the United Nations will show itself equal to this task. The important role that it will play in guaranteeing the stability and security of the territory with the co-operation of the *de facto* administration can result in the impartial process that is envisaged. It is important to be aware that, initially, some Namibian parties were sceptical about the ability of the United Nations to undertake this task with impartiality. We believe that they have been persuaded that, on each occasion that the United Nations, under the guidance of the Secretary-General, has been involved in a process either of peace-keeping or of assisting a territory to independence, it has done so with competence and impartiality. The proposal calls for free and fair elections in accordance with Security Council Resolution 385, and it is to this task that the United Nations Transition Assistance Group will address itself.

The General Assembly will have noted that we have omitted from our proposal the difficult question of Walvis Bay for the reason that we see no way of settling the question in the context of the present negotiations. We feel strongly, however, that

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