

6. Resolution 435 vested responsibility for the supervision and control of the elections and the election campaign in the United Nations. However, as had already been demonstrated by a considerable number of visits, there was scope for others to observe the process and lend weight to international efforts to buttress the United Nations operation. In this regard, Ministers were of the view that the Commonwealth Secretary-General should explore urgently the possibility of constituting a representative observer group from the Commonwealth which would visit Namibia prior to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in order to report to Heads of Government in Kuala Lumpur on the situation and on possible future arrangements.

7. Ministers noted with approval that the expanded United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) police force would soon reach its authorised target of 1,000 and that several Commonwealth countries were among the contributors. At the same time, they expressed concern at the ongoing problem of SWAPOL and, in particular the continuing presence of Koevoet personnel in SWAPOL, and resolved to draw this concern to the attention of the United Nations Secretary-General. To help the United Nations address the problem, the Committee agreed that the Commonwealth Secretary-General would encourage Commonwealth member countries to be prepared to supply additional police officers if the United Nations Secretary-General requested them. The Commonwealth would make this offer of support to the United Nations Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations had all the resources needed to resolve the serious problem posed by SWAPOL.

8. In this regard the Committee reiterated its earlier call on member states of the United Nations, including members of the Security Council, to assure the United Nations Secretary-General that the required resources will be provided to enable him to deploy, up the upper limit of 7,500, the full military component judged by him to be necessary for carrying out effectively all the relevant tasks specified in the UNTAG plan.

9. The Committee concluded that the challenge facing Namibia in the post-electoral period both before and after independence would be daunting. Conditions were very uncertain and, even if as was to be hoped, the election process was free and fair, the success of the expression of the people's will could be frustrated by subsequent political and economic pressures from South Africa. In light of these dangers the Namibian people would need assistance in preparing themselves administratively for independence and in effecting rapid economic development. The Commonwealth already provided extensive training and other development assistance. Ministers asked the Secretary-General to explore the possibilities for significantly expanded aid in the operational, development and constitutional fields. In anticipation of these needs and the expectation of increased assistance, the Committee thought that consideration should be given to sending Commonwealth expertise at the appropriate time to provide assistance and advice, while participating in the planning of future activity with the new Government.

Destabilisation

10. The Committee noted that despite the welcome improvement in the security situation in South Western Africa, South Africa's campaign of destabilisation in other parts of the region continued to exact a high toll both in human life and material loss. According to an independent study on the subject of destabilisation commissioned by the Committee,