

We have listened with interest and care to the statements delivered in this debate. The representative of Zambia spoke with quiet and persuasive eloquence of the right of Namibians to self-determination and the tragic consequences of further delay.

The Secretary-General of the South West African People's Organization, Mr. Andemba Toivo ja Toivo, made equally telling points about the nature of his people's struggle for self-determination. It was a moving experience for us to hear this reasonable man, at long last free in person, and as ever committed to the freedom of his people. Could we have foreseen his presence among us even two years ago? Are there not larger lessons to be drawn by South Africa? What might happen if South Africa also released its own political prisoners — the Mandelas and the leaders of the United Democratic Front? Might South Africa not find that they, too, are reasonable men, open to rational discussion and rational argument if dialogue is given a chance?

South Africa's continued refusal to set a date to implement the UN plan, is a wilful breach of good faith and of the assurances given to members of the Contact Group and to the UN itself. Canada, for one, has stated clearly that this behaviour will contribute to the widening gap in our bilateral relationship. As we said last June, the Contact Group may still have a role to play during the actual implementation of Resolution 435, as well as a role in bringing about an agreement to set a date to implement the UN plan. Canada, therefore, continues to be frustrated by the Contact Group's inactivity and sense of immobility. This is a situation that we might want to consider further, in co-operation with our friends from the front line states and Contact Group partners.

We expect that the resolution which emerges from this Council meeting will set the stage for renewed diplomatic efforts. Canada is ready to assist. In the meantime, we support, with full heart, the UN's unrelenting determination to achieve independence for Namibia on a just and equitable basis.

There is one other matter we would wish briefly to raise. In the face of the present military and diplomatic impasse, we must constantly remind ourselves of the aggravated plight of the Namibian people and refugees. Several days ago, Canada deposited its annual contribution to the UN Fund for Namibia. We don't wish to be presumptuous, but other countries, especially non-contributors or those whose contributions are little more than token, might wish to reconsider their funding. This is a time when social, educational, economic and humanitarian assistance are acutely necessary, and for the future prospects of the country, absolutely indispensable.

Unanimity of action should be our goal. Unanimity will keep the issue at the forefront of the international agenda and send, yet again, but with mounting force, a strong, clear message to South Africa. Each of us must do our part to maintain and to intensify the pressure. The Toivos of Namibia will one day triumph — of that there is no question. It is simply — if painfully — a matter of time. History will be left to calculate the consequences for South Africa of its obdurate and inconscionable delays.