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NAMIBIA/ANGOLA SETTLEMENT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, welcomed the agreements signed today in New York providing for United Nations-supervised independence for Namibia and phased Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola.

"I am delighted that this settlement brings closer the long-delayed prospect of freedom for Namibia and offers the hope of peace for Angola. I congratulate the three parties and their mediator on achieving what until recently seemed almost impossible." Angola, Cuba and South Africa have been negotiating under USA mediation for over eight months.

Canada was a non-permanent member of the Security Council when in 1978 Resolution 435 was adopted calling for Namibia's transition to independence from South African occupation. Canada joins the Security Council again on January 1, 1989, and will be an active Council participant throughout the twelve month period of the Namibian independence transition.

"Canada, as a key sponsor of the UN plan for Namibia, is ready to play its part to help implement it in all aspects, and to assist in the development of independent Namibia. As the requirements are finalized, Canada will make known its specific contributions."

Mr. Clark further expressed his deep regret at the tragic death in yesterday's Pan Am crash of Mr. Bernt Carlsson, U.N. Commissioner for Namibia.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada