

During the period November 21 - December 12, they met in the relevant capitals with President Nyerere of Tanzania, Foreign Minister Chissano of Mozambique, President Khama and Vice-President Masire of Botswana, President Kaunda of Zambia and Prime Minister do Nascimento and Foreign Minister Jorge of Angola, and with Head of State Obasanjo of Nigeria. They met once more with South Africa and twice during that period with SWAPO.

Following this exhaustive round of consultation and discussion, the five governments determined that the areas of concern of the different parties had become so apparent and the differences between them sufficiently narrowed as to make it advisable for the five to take a position on what they considered to be a pragmatic, reasonable and fair means of implementing Resolution 385. Therefore, during the month of December, the five governments invited South Africa and SWAPO to participate in discussions with them in New York. Each party was informed that it was the intention to hold similar discussions in New York during the same period with the other principal parties. The importance which the five governments attached to these "proximity" talks which eventually took place on February 11 and 12 was reflected in the participation in them by my colleagues, the Foreign Ministers of France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and myself. At the ministerial level meetings, the Government of South Africa was represented by its Foreign Minister, Mr. Botha, and SWAPO by its President, Mr. Nujoma. I might add that the SWAPO delegation to those talks, for the first time, included representatives of the internal Namibian branch of SWAPO.

Apart from the talks with the principal parties, ministerial level consultations also took place with the Secretary General and his officials. We also held discussions with the Foreign Ministers of the front-line states present in New York, Mr. Mwale of Zambia, Mr. Mkapa of Tanzania, Mr. Mogwe of Botswana, and with senior representatives or ambassadors of Angola, Mozambique, Nigeria, Mauritius and Gabon. Also during this period delegations from other Namibian parties travelled to New York and were received by officials of the five governments. The exercise was discussed with them in considerable detail and their views and concerns were presented to my colleagues and myself.

Mr. President, at the conclusion of the February talks, our five governments were convinced that the proposal which has been put to the parties during the talks embodied in its elements a very reasonable means of implementing Resolution 385 in a manner which took into full account the real and the perceived concerns of each, and in a manner which could bring about in the very near future a resolution of the Namibian question. There, nonetheless, remained certain