

Department of
External
Affairs



Ministère des
Affaires
extérieures

No. 282

November 12, 1989.

UNITED NATIONS DECLARES ELECTIONS
IN NAMIBIA "FREE AND FAIR"

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today warmly welcomed the United Nations judgement that free and fair elections have been held in Namibia. With nearly 98 percent of eligible voters participating in the November 7-11 elections, UN Special Representative Martti Ahtisaari yesterday declared that "the voting process has been free and fair".

"The enthusiasm and perseverance of the Namibian people in exercising their democratic rights is an inspiration to us all" stated Mr. Clark. "The United Nations has done an outstanding job in delivering these free and fair elections".

Later this week the UN Secretary General will present a full report on the elections, including the counting and results, to the Security Council. "Canada will ask the Security Council to move quickly in endorsing the report's findings, and in urging that the election results be honoured both inside and outside Namibia", said the Minister.

Mr. Clark expressed his deep appreciation to the more than 400 Canadians who participated in the massive international effort to conduct the Namibian elections under UN supervision and control. "As a nation, we are extremely proud of those Canadians who came from all parts of our country, and all walks of life, to serve the cause of democracy in Namibia", he stated. The Canadian participants in the election effort include some 250 military peacekeepers, 100 police, 50 elections supervisors, 10 fingerprint experts and two electoral computer experts.

Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures