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Canada helps pave the way to an independent Namibia

A Security Council proposal to bring about independence to Namibia has been accepted by South Africa, Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson informed the ninth Special Session of the United Nations Assembly in New York on April 25.

Mr. Jamieson's announcement came at the end of his address to the Assembly on behalf of the Governments of France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Britain, the United States and Canada — members of the Security Council, who had been trying for over a year to bring about the independence of Namibia through the implementation of Security Council Resolution 385 that had been adopted unanimously — a resolution which, said Mr. Jamieson, "comprised the most comprehensive approach ever adopted by the Council to the desired resolution of the Namibian problem".

The Secretary of State for External Affairs recalled that the resolution asked for free elections under the supervision of the UN; the establishment of machinery in Namibia for the supervision of such elections and of conditions that would allow Namibians to organize politically; the withdrawal of the illegal South African administration and a transfer of power, with the assistance of the UN, to the people of Namibia; the release of all Namibian political prisoners; abolition of the application of all racially discriminatory and politically repressive laws and practices; and the unconditional accord of full facilities for the return of all politically exiled Namibians to their country, without risk of arrest, detention, intimidation or imprisonment.

Key points of plan

Mr. Jamieson described briefly the essential elements of the five-nation proposal for settlement of the Namibian question:

"On the basis of Resolution 385, we consider that the key to an internationally-acceptable transition to early independence is free elections for the

whole of Namibia, as one political entity, with appropriate United Nations supervision and control. To that end, we will seek the establishment of a substantial United Nations presence, both civilian and military, which we have tentatively called the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), to be led by a United Nations special representative, appointed by and responsible to the United Nations Secretary-General. Working together with the South African Administrator-General, this special representative would have as his primary task to satisfy himself that all conditions exist to ensure free and fair elections. Thus, he would see to it that all repressive measures or regulations are repealed, all freedoms restored and all Namibian political prisoners or detainees, wherever held, released so that they can participate fully and freely in the electoral process.

"Free elections cannot be held in conditions of repression; neither can they be held in conditions of insecurity and intimidation. Until an independent Namibia assumes responsibility for its own security the international community must insist that there be adequate means to assure law and order and the over-all security of the territory. Thus, the proposal calls for a comprehensive cessation of all hostile acts. It makes provision for the maintenance of law and order and for the introduction of a military section of a United Nations Transition Assistance Group combined with the phased withdrawal of all but 1,500 South African soldiers. These 1,500 men will be restricted to one or two bases and monitored by the United Nations pending their withdrawal. We would argue for a firm and specific mandate to ensure observance of the provisions of the agreement.

"We believe these positions are adequate for security. But they will obviously have to be applied in light of developing conditions. It is our hope that the parties and the surrounding states will

Navigator Jacques Cartier (1494-1554), "the discoverer of Canada", who set out to discover a route north of the New World to Asia, reached Cape Bonavista, Newfoundland on May 10, 1534, 20 days after leaving Saint Malo, France, his birthplace.

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