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JOINT STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA
AND THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE FIVE WESTERN NATIONS
ON THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

On April 25, 1978, the South African government announced its acceptance of the proposals of the Western Five for an internationally acceptable settlement of the Namibia problem. However, when the United Nations Secretary-General published his report on the implementation of the proposals, the South African government expressed concern that certain aspects of the report were not in accordance with the Western proposal. The areas of concern were the size of the military component of UNTAG, the question of consultations, the proposal for police monitors and the date of the elections. The statement by the Secretary-General in the Security Council on September 29 addressed itself to clarification of these areas of concern.

The five foreign ministers and the South African government discussed these clarifications further in order to establish common ground on the implementation of the report of the Secretary-General. The following main points were examined:

1. Police Force:

While the South African delegation considered the number of civilian personnel envisaged for police monitoring responsibilities excessive, it believed that the Secretary-General's explanatory statement in the Security Council had removed South Africa's preoccupation with the character and role of the personnel concerned. It had become clear that the functions of the existing police forces would not be affected.

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