

report and his recommendations as to how best he could discharge the mandate given to him by the Security Council, we had every reason to believe that the United Nations finally had in its hands the instrument capable of putting an end to 30 years of controversy and of bringing Namibia to independence in an internationally-acceptable manner.

It was, therefore, with shock and dismay that we heard last week of the South African Government's decision to proceed unilaterally with elections in that territory.

Neither of the reasons invoked by the South African Government is valid. First, I wish to declare most categorically that the Secretary-General's report is fully in line with the original Western proposal. That report is a professional assessment of the human and financial means required to perform the tasks our proposal calls for.

Secondly, apart from a few extreme elements, all of those who have a claim to represent sectors of the Namibian population have clearly expressed their preference for and acceptance of UN involvement in the independence process. The churches have done so, the Namibia National Front has done so and, as recently as September 15, the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance has done so. We simply cannot accept that there is now a need for some form of further consultation.

We are once more facing a grave situation. Our organization is now in a position to undertake the task of bringing to independence, through peaceful means, a new nation.

We must urge those who wish to stand in the way of such a noble enterprise to reconsider their decision. The South African Government must realize that its defiance of the will of the international community, particularly when that Government has been so closely involved in a long negotiating process, cannot be tolerated. The new Government of South Africa, which we understand will be formed by the end of this month, would be very seriously mistaken if it assumed that its actions in respect of Namibia would have no serious consequences. To those leaders inside Namibia who are being led to believe that they can solve their problems through some sham electoral procedure, I can only say: "Think of the future of your country. The road you are taking can only lead to a dead end. Make no mistake: a so-called government chosen through the so-called elections currently envisaged by the Administrator-General will never be recognized internationally. Instead of enjoying the benefits of free and close association with the rest of the world, you will only beget more bloodshed and bring about in the long run the destruction of what you hold dear." It is not too late, and I sincerely hope that all concerned will reconsider their course of action.

South Africa

The danger signals are clear. In November 1977, the Security Council imposed a mandatory arms embargo on South Africa, the first time the provisions of Chapter VII of the UN Charter had been invoked against a member state. This step confirmed a policy voluntarily observed by Canada since 1963. The invocation of Chapter VII of the Charter has rightly been regarded as a grave decision, taken only after the most serious consideration and a careful weighing of the implications. This decision there-