

South West Africa

International efforts to resolve the long-standing dispute between South Africa and the United Nations over Namibia entered a major new phase in April. At that time, the five Western members of the UN Security Council (Britain, Canada, France, the U.S.A. and West Germany) undertook to explore with the principal parties to the dispute (South Africa, the UN, the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO), the principal Namibian independence movement, and the "front-line" states of Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia) means for obtaining an internationally-acceptable solution that would be consistent with the requirements of UN Security Council Resolution 385 of January 30, 1976. (That resolution called, *inter alia*, for the holding of free elections under the supervision and control of the United Nations, the withdrawal of the illegal South African administration of Namibia, the release of all Namibian political prisoners, the abolition of all racially-discriminatory and politically-repressive laws and practices, and permission for all Namibian exiles to return to the territory.) During 1977, representatives of the five Western Security Council states held several discussions with the concerned parties at the United Nations in New York, in Cape Town and elsewhere, and some progress was achieved on many of the points raised in Resolution 385. At the end of 1977, the Western five had proposed that further talks with South Africa and SWAPO should be held in New York early in 1978 to try to achieve a compromise on outstanding differences.

South Africa

The large-scale riots and unrest that dominated South Africa's internal affairs in 1976 were not as frequent in 1977. However, the detaining or banning of prominent black South Africans continued and had the most serious repercussions when South Africans and the world learnt of the death of Steve Biko, Honorary President of the Black People's Convention and a prominent and respected leader of moderate black opinion. His death in mysterious circumstances while in police custody shocked international opinion. Eventually, strong domestic and world reaction obliged the South African Government to institute an inquest into the circumstances of Mr Biko's death. Before the inquest began,

however, the South African Government further disturbed the international community on October 19 by arresting, detaining or banning the great majority of its most prominent domestic critics. The Canadian Government called in the South African Ambassador on October 25 to convey to his Government Canada's grave concern over the latest measures to repress legitimate dissent in South Africa. Subsequently, on November 4, Canada joined the other members of the UN Security Council in unanimously agreeing to the imposition of a mandatory embargo (under the provisions of Chapter VII of the UN Charter) on the sale of arms and military equipment to South Africa.

During the course of the Security Council's deliberations on the arms embargo, Canada declared that it was undertaking a review of its economic relations with South Africa and, on December 19, the Secretary of State for External Affairs announced the results of this review. Referring to the recent events in South Africa and the grave concern felt in Canada over the unique racial situation in that country, Mr Jamieson made known the Government's intention to phase out nearly all its government-sponsored commercial-support activities in South Africa - while permitting private trade and investment to continue. In consequence, Canadian trade commissioners in South Africa would be withdrawn and the Consulate General in Johannesburg closed. Government account facilities of the Export Development Corporation would be withdrawn from transactions with South Africa and a code of conduct would be issued concerning the employment practices of Canadian companies operating in South Africa. To rectify anomalous situations resulting from South Africa's former membership in the Commonwealth, the Government would begin to require visas for all non-immigrant South Africans visiting Canada and would undertake to examine the effects of ending British-preferential-tariff treatment still accorded to South Africa. Other measures, relating to Canadian economic relations with Namibia, were also dealt with in Mr Jamieson's statement. In announcing these various moves, Mr Jamieson made it clear that the Canadian Government continued to hope that the problem of South Africa would be resolved