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NAMIBIA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today made the following remarks about the continuing tragic situation in Namibia.

" The international community must move urgently to respond. The first step must be the cessation of hostilities. To that end, Canada has been in constant touch with Security Council members and other interested governments. This morning I conveyed my request for maximum restraint to the South African Government through their Ambassador in Ottawa. We have put forward to the U.N. Secretariat, the South African Government and SWAPO the basic elements of a possible solution to the crisis which would include:

- withdrawal of SWAPO armed personnel,
- maximum restraint on all sides,
- the urgent and accelerated deployment of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) in the North to supervise arrangements for SWAPO withdrawal; and,
- return of South African-controlled military units to base.

It is absolutely essential that the U.N. move quickly. Canada is engaged in intense discussions with the Secretariat on the specific help that Canada can provide.

There are currently 65 Canadian military personnel in Namibia which are providing logistic support for UNTAG. We are seeking the earliest possible answer from the U.N. regarding whether we will be requested to speed up the deployment of the remainder of our contribution. We, of course, will do everything possible to meet such a request and contingency plans are being devised in that connection."

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada

Canadian personnel are all located in and around the capital of Windhoek which is located 500 kilometres south from the current conflict which is taking place along the northern Namibian-Angolan border. The Canadian troops are therefore in no danger.