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COMMUNIQUÉ ON NAMIBIA ISSUED BY THE
FOREIGN MINISTERS OF CANADA, FRANCE, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC,
OF GERMANY, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES,
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 24, 1981

The Foreign Ministers of Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States met in New York on 24 September to review the progress made in their search for an early settlement of the Namibian question.

The Ministers noted that there have been extensive discussions with interested African governments and the Organization of African Unity. The Ministers also noted that discussions had taken place between the United States Government and the South African Government and that there had been a recent exchange of messages between the Five and South Africa. It is therefore now possible to identify more clearly the issues involved and a process for their resolution which would lead to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 435.

The Ministers noted that the stage reached in their work and the consultations in which they have engaged have enabled them to consider proposals to deal with these issues and thus to create the confidence necessary for all parties to proceed.

In their consultations, the Five Governments have developed proposals for a timetable for further and final negotiations with the objective of implementation of Security Council Resolution 435 in 1982.

The Five have now completed their initial consideration of possible constitutional principles for the Constituent Assembly. The Five believe that these proposals would be likely to secure the confidence of all concerned. Accordingly, the Five now intend to begin discussion of these proposed constitutional principles, as well as a timetable and an approach to other remaining issues with the parties concerned starting in October.

The Foreign Ministers recognize and share the desire of the international community to see early and meaningful progress towards the implementation of the United Nations plan and the independence of Namibia. They reaffirm their determination to pursue their efforts in cooperation with the parties concerned to resolve the remaining outstanding issues and thus secure without further delay a peaceful solution to the Namibian problem.