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# STATEMENT DISCOURS

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## SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

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## SECRÉTAIRE D'ÉTAT AUX AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES.



NOTES FOR AN ADDRESS BY  
H.E. GÉRARD PELLETIER,  
AMBASSADOR OF CANADA,  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY COUNCIL

NEW YORK,  
OCTOBER 26, 1983

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## NAMIBIA

Mr. President, I am most grateful to you and to the Council for again giving my country an opportunity to participate in this debate. The situation in Namibia is of concern to us all not least to those of us among the Front Line States and the Contact Group who have worked to change it. The situation directly affects the people of Namibia who have an unquestioned right to freedom and self-determination. It affects the countries of Africa which have worked hard for Namibia's independence. Further delay is in no one's interest. I am confident, Mr. President, that by your experience and understanding you will lead the Council toward a positive result that hastens the day that Namibia shall be free.

The members of the Contact Group have consistently supported applications from persons competent for the purpose who have requested the opportunity to speak at Security Council meetings concerning the situation in Namibia, in order to supply the Security Council with information on this question in accordance with Rule 39 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure. Contact Group members have done so without passing any judgement on the opinions expressed by those persons. They consider it important that the Security Council, which by its previous decisions has engaged itself to seek the holding of free and fair elections in Namibia should provide on an impartial basis opportunities to those who may be parties to those elections to present their views. In this context the members of the Contact Group are transmitting messages from two internal parties.

Mr. President, Canada helped to initiate and to frame the UN settlement plan for Namibia in 1978. My government deeply regrets that the Security Council is still seized of this issue five years later and that the people of Namibia are still unable to exercise their right to self-determination. We understand and share the concerns of the international community which have prompted the call for this Security Council meeting.

The road to the peaceful independence of Namibia has not been straight or smooth. We have found many potholes, and some major roadblocks. Occasionally the road has seemed to wind backwards. Sometimes we have feared that the road might end short of Namibia's independence. But we have made progress. It is in this context, that I should like to join other speakers in complimenting the Secretary-General on his recent efforts to restore momentum towards the implementation of Security Council Resolution 435.

On May 3, 1983 the Council mandated the Secretary-General to undertake consultations with the parties to the proposed cease-fire, with a view to securing the speedy implementation of Security Council Resolution 435. His subsequent efforts, as outlined in the Secretary-General's report dated August 29, 1983 reflect more than just one visit to Southern Africa. They reflect a continuing commitment on the part of the Secretary-General and his staff to this just cause.

The Secretary-General in his report has outlined his discussions both before and during his visit to Southern Africa. These discussions demonstrated the Secretary General's commitment to carry out, faithfully and conscientiously, the mandate entrusted to him by the Council last May.

We welcome the assurances from the Government of South Africa that the choice of electoral systems, whether proportional representation or the constituency system, would be made, and would be communicated, at an early stage in the implementation process. That is essential to success of the UN Plan. We are glad that agreement has been reached on the proposed composition of UNTAG and that the remaining questions regarding its status have been settled. We believe in addition that the Secretary-General's assurances that all parties would be treated equally in the implementation of Resolution 435 have effectively resolved this matter. We also note the positive statement that the President of SWAPO made to the Secretary-General. We welcome the cooperation of all parties involved in these discussions and these important steps forward.

Now that the outstanding issues under Resolution 435 have been resolved, the question is where do we go from here. My government hopes that the Secretary-General will have the opportunity to build constructively on his recent success. We believe that he should be free to use all the means at his disposal to pursue early independence for Namibia, and thereby to foster peace and stability in Southern Africa. To this end we would strongly urge that unrealistic deadlines be avoided while seeking implementation of Resolution 435 in 1984.

The question of peace and stability in the region is important. My government fully shares the concerns expressed by the Secretary-General in his report. The instability and conflict arising from South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia has had disastrous

consequences for Namibia and its neighbours. Measures to build confidence between those directly concerned and to reduce conflict in the region are urgently needed. We would support initiatives to that end for, as the Secretary-General has said, "It is in the interest of absolutely no one to have this situation continue".

It is important that the Government of South Africa recognize this basic fact. Just days before this debate, South African troops again violated the sovereignty of Mozambique. We condemn that attack in Maputo. We also condemn acts of violence or terrorism wherever they may occur.

South Africa through its use of force cannot seek unilaterally to reshape the region. Boundaries and sovereignties must remain inviolate: that is the only basis for peace in the region. The President of Angola has reaffirmed that his country has no desire to rely on foreign troops nor keep them on its soil once Angola is no longer threatened. The first step towards a settlement must surely be the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of South African forces from Angola. Its presence there cannot be justified in terms of international law and practice.

The Secretary-General has noted that South Africa continues to make the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola a condition for its withdrawal from Namibia. South Africa cannot, however, legitimize its illegal occupation of Namibia by raising other issues. As the Canadian Deputy Prime Minister/Secretary of State for External Affairs stated in his speech to the 38th General Assembly, Namibia should have its independence regardless of what happens or what does not happen in Angola.

Canada admires the patience of those leaders in the region who have worked so hard - for so long - for the implementation of Resolution 435. We take their patience and their dogged persistence as our own example. We shall not cease our efforts. The implementation of Resolution 435 during 1984 must be our objective and that of the Council.

Mr. President, we have come a long way since 1978. We have unfortunately some distance to go. I hope that the Council's deliberations will lead to practical steps to strengthen confidence in the region and hasten Namibia's independence. Its independence is no dream; it is inevitable reality. Our goal must be to ensure that it comes soon and peacefully. Thank you Mr. President.