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The United Nations Council for Namibia

A Summary of Twenty Years of Effort
by the Council for Namibia
on Behalf of Namibian Independence



United Nations
New York, 1987

UN Photo



View of Namibia looking south along the main road from Windhoek, the capital.

FOREWORD

While the opposition of South Africa has prevented the United Nations Council for Namibia from carrying out specific functions in the Territory, as entrusted to it by the General Assembly, the Council has not allowed this to affect its overall political action programme in support of Namibian independence, which it has pursued with great determination over the past twenty years, or its advocacy of the rights of the Namibian people, its activities in promoting their interests and welfare, and its efforts in sensitizing and mobilizing international opinion in support of their just cause.

With the support of the international community and the United Nations system, the Council will continue to promote the cause of Namibian freedom until Namibia attains complete independence and takes its rightful place in the community of nations.

A brief summary of the activities of the Council over the past two decades in that cause is given in the pages that follow.

The United Nations Council for Namibia meeting at Headquarters to observe Namibia Day.



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Originally composed of 11 members, the Council was enlarged to 18 members in 1972, to 25 members in 1974 and to 31 members in 1978. The members of the Council in 1987 were: Algeria, Angola, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Cyprus, Egypt, Finland, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Liberia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Senegal, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

The year 1987 marked two decades of effort for Namibian independence by the United Nations Council for Namibia, the organ set up by the General Assembly in 1967 as the legal Administering Authority for the Territory until independence.

The Council was established following the termination by the General Assembly of South Africa's League of Nations Mandate to administer the Territory, then called South West Africa. In a resolution adopted on 27 October 1966, the Assembly declared that South Africa had failed to fulfil its obligations under the Mandate to ensure the moral and material well-being of the people of the Territory and that henceforth South West Africa came under the direct responsibility of the United Nations.

On 19 May 1967, the General Assembly set up a Council for South West Africa to administer the Territory until independence, with the maximum possible participation of the people of the Territory. The Assembly also decided that the administrative and executive functions of the Council should be carried out by a Commissioner, to be appointed by the Assembly on the recommendation of the Secretary-General.

The following year, the Assembly proclaimed that, in accordance with the desires of its people, South West Africa would henceforth be known as Namibia, and it decided that the Council should be called the United Nations Council for Namibia.

Special commemorative meeting

To mark the twentieth year of its establishment, the Council held a special commemorative meeting at Luanda, Angola, on 19 May 1987, and heard statements by:

- José Eduardo Dos Santos, President of Angola;
- Kenneth D. Kaunda, President of Zambia;

- Ange-Edouard Pongui, Prime Minister of the Congo, on behalf of Denis Sassou-Nguesso, President of the Congo and of the Organization of African Unity;

- Humayun Rasheed Choudhury, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh and President of the forty-first (1986) session of the General Assembly;

- Abdulrahim A. Farah, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Trusteeship and Decolonization, on behalf of United Nations Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar;

- Sam Nujoma, President of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), recognized by the General Assembly as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people;

- Andrew Mtetwa, on behalf of Robert G. Mugaba, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe and Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries; and

- Peter D. Zuze (Zambia), President of the United Nations Council for Namibia.

The Council also heard a message from the President of the Security Council.

At the close of the special commemorative meeting, the Council adopted by acclamation an appeal in which it:

APPEAL issued by the United Nations Council for Namibia

1. It is now 20 years since the General Assembly, having terminated South Africa's Mandate over Namibia, created the United Nations Council for Namibia to administer the Territory and prepare it for independence. These events marked a decisive new stage in the efforts of the international community to realize in Namibia the principles of self-determination and peaceful resolution of conflict enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

2. By undertaking a direct and active commitment to the decolonization of Namibia, the United Nations offered fitting support to the century-old resistance of the Namibian people against foreign domination, which in 1966 took the form of an armed liberation struggle led by the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people.

3. On this occasion, the United Nations Council for Namibia pays tribute once

- called urgently upon the international community to act decisively to bring an end to the illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa and to assist, as a matter of priority, the victims of South Africa's repression;

- urged the United States Administration to withdraw its support for South Africa's policy of linking Namibia's independence with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola;

- urged the Security Council to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations so as to compel it to terminate its illegal occupation of Namibia;

- appealed to all States to support its activities as the legal Administering Authority for Namibia until independence; and

- urged all States, institutions and individuals to render increased assistance of every kind to the Namibian people, through SWAPO, and called for generous international support for the front-line States (States which share a border with Namibia and/or are in the forefront of African opposition to South Africa's occupation of the Territory) in their efforts to defend their sovereignty and territorial integrity against aggression, destabilization and subversion by South Africa.

The Council reaffirmed its unconditional solidarity with SWAPO. It

on 19 May 1987

again to the Namibian people for the countless sacrifices that they have made and the heroic courage that they have displayed in their struggle against colonial repression by the racist régime of South Africa.

4. Just as South Africa has brutally suppressed the Namibian people's struggle for national liberation, so it has used cynical delaying tactics and diplomatic manoeuvres to block implementation of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia contained in Security Council resolution 435(1978). The Security Council, for its part, has been prevented by some of its permanent members from taking effective measures to secure implementation of its own plan.

5. So long as South Africa maintains its illegal occupation of Namibia, it will continue to murder, torture and persecute Namibians; to plunder their resources in collaboration with other foreign interests; and to use the Territory as a staging ground for acts

conveyed to the Namibian people, through SWAPO, its assurance of whole-hearted support of their just struggle and reaffirmed to them its conviction that their inalienable right to self-determination and independence would ultimately prevail and that Namibia would claim its rightful place in the community of nations.

Background of the problem

For many years prior to the First World War, South West Africa was a German colony. After Germany's defeat, South West Africa was placed under a League of Nations Mandate, with responsibility for the Territory given to the United Kingdom but assumed by South Africa, then the Union of South Africa.

With the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, the General Assembly called on States administering mandated territories to place them under the International Trusteeship System set up by the Charter. Only South Africa refused to do so. Instead, it continued to govern the Territory and refused to transmit information to the United Nations on its administration of the Territory.

An advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, requested by the Security Council and handed down on 21 June 1971, stated that

of aggression and destabilization against the neighbouring independent States. These acts, in turn, can only serve to perpetuate *apartheid* rule in South Africa itself and to lead southern Africa to the brink of chaos and destruction.

6. In view of the ever-increasing repression of the Namibian people and the explosive situation prevailing in southern Africa, the United Nations Council for Namibia calls urgently upon the international community to act decisively to bring an end to the illegal occupation of Namibia by the racist régime of South Africa and to assist, as a matter of priority, the victims of racist South Africa's repression.

7. To this end, the Council urges the United States Administration to withdraw its support for South Africa's policy of linkage, a policy that the Security Council itself has rejected as incompatible with its resolution 435(1978) and condemned as an obstruction to the independence of Namibia.

8. The Council urges the Security Council to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter, so as to compel it to terminate its illegal occupation of Namibia. The Council stresses that negotiation, persuasion and repeated warnings to South Africa have met only with defiance and delay by the racist Pretoria régime. These developments show conclusively that comprehensive and mandatory sanctions are the only remaining peaceful means of bringing about the genuine independence of Namibia.

9. The Council appeals to all States to support its activities as the legal Administer-

the continued presence of South Africa in Namibia was illegal and that South Africa was under an obligation to withdraw its administration from the Territory; that Member States must refrain from any acts which might imply recognition of the legality of, or lend support for, such presence and administration; and that it was incumbent upon non-member States to assist the United Nations in this respect.

As it had in response to earlier resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, South Africa ignored the Court's advisory opinion and has continued to defy all subsequent resolutions of the United Nations pertaining to the Territory.

Chief among these have been two Security Council resolutions, one adopted in 1976 and the other in 1978. In resolution 385 (1976), adopted on 30 January 1976, the Council unanimously declared that, in order to enable the people of Namibia freely to determine their own future, it was imperative that free elections under United Nations supervision and control be held for the whole of Namibia as one political entity and that, in determining the date, timetable and modalities for such elections, there should be adequate time, to be decided upon by the Security Council, to enable the United Nations to establish the necessary machinery within Namibia to supervise and control such elections, as well as to enable the people of Namibia to organize politically for the purpose of

ing Authority for Namibia until independence. It declares that such support strengthens the authority of the United Nations in relation to Namibia and enhances the efforts to ensure full implementation of the relevant decisions and resolutions of the United Nations.

10. The Council urges all States, institutions and individuals to render increased assistance of every kind to the Namibian people, through SWAPO, which is leading the struggle for national liberation in Namibia. Furthermore, the Council calls for generous international support for the front-line States in their efforts to defend their sovereignty and territorial integrity against aggression, destabilization and subversion by the racist régime of South Africa.

11. The Council reaffirms its unconditional solidarity with SWAPO, the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people. The Council conveys to the Namibian masses, through SWAPO, its assurance of whole-hearted support for their just struggle. It reaffirms to them its conviction that their inalienable right to self-determination and independence will ultimately prevail and that Namibia will claim its rightful place in the community of nations.

12. Finally, the Council recalls the solemn obligation of the international community to promote and defend the inalienable rights of the Namibian people. In the final analysis, it is only through the active and conscientious fulfilment of this obligation that the fundamental principles of the United Nations can be upheld in relation to Namibia and that justice can be made to triumph over brute force, lawlessness and oppression.

such elections. The Council demanded that South Africa urgently make a solemn declaration accepting these provisions, undertaking to comply with the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations and the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, and recognizing the territorial integrity and unity of Namibia as a nation.

In April 1978, the five Western members of the Security Council—Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States—presented to the Council a proposal for a settlement of the Namibian situation. In resolution 435 (1978) of 29 September 1978, the Council approved the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the settlement proposal; reiterated that its objective was the withdrawal of South Africa's illegal administration from Namibia and the transfer of power to the people of Namibia with the assistance of the United Nations in accordance with Council resolution 385 (1976); and decided to establish under its authority a United Nations Transition Assistance Group to assist the Secretary-General's Special Representative in carrying out his mandate to ensure the early independence of Namibia through free elections under United Nations supervision and control.

Despite the willingness of SWAPO to co-operate in the implementation of the Secretary-General's report, including the signing and observance of a cease-fire, South Africa has refused to enter into negotiations until Cuban troops stationed in Angola at that country's request are withdrawn, a condition that the United Nations has rejected as irrelevant to the question of Namibian independence. The question of "linking" Namibian independence to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola has remained the chief obstacle to a settlement.



SWAPO supporters at a rally in Windhoek.

UN Photo

ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL

When the General Assembly established the United Nations Council for Namibia in 1967, it decided that the Council should be based in the Territory and should proceed there and enter immediately into contact with the South African authorities in order to lay down procedures for the orderly transfer of the Territory, including the withdrawal of South African military forces, police and other personnel and their replacement by personnel operating under the authority of the Council. South Africa, however, has from the beginning prevented the Council from entering Namibia to fulfil its mandate as the legal Administering Authority for the Territory. The Council has nevertheless carried out a wide range of responsibilities and activities designed to further the cause of Namibian independence, including:

- consulting with Member States on compliance with United Nations resolutions on Namibia, particularly Security Council resolution 435 (1978), and with the 1971 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, and on ways of increasing pressure for South Africa's withdrawal, particularly by applying sanctions;
- supporting the struggle of the Namibian people, under the leadership of SWAPO, for their national liberation;
- assisting Namibians by financing education and training programmes, providing travel and identity documents and ensuring that they participate fully in the work of the Council;
- exposing the activities of foreign economic interests in Namibia that support the illegal South African presence there, and exposing South Africa's repressive policies and practices in Namibia;
- holding extraordinary plenary meetings and organizing conferences, seminars and symposiums to publicize the situation in Namibia and gain international support for Namibian independence; and
- representing Namibian interests in international organizations and conferences.

Some of the highlights of the Council's activities are summarized in these pages.

Consultations

As part of its continuing effort to bring about implementation of United Nations resolutions on Namibia and to strengthen the support of States for Namibian independence, the Council regularly undertakes missions of consultation with Governments, at their invitation. These missions have taken members of the Council to States in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, where they have met with high-level government officials. The missions have resulted in pledges or commitments of support by Governments to the cause of Namibian independence and of assistance to Namibians and to the front-line States. The missions, particularly those to southern Africa, also enable Namibians living outside their country to appear before the Council.

The Council has also undertaken missions for the purpose of making direct contact with administering and managing authorities of foreign corporations operating in Namibia and of pointing out to them the illegality of their operations in the Territory.

Conferences and meetings

The Council participates in major international conferences either directly concerned with the cause of Namibian independence or concerned with the related problems of southern Africa and particularly with *apartheid* in South Africa. These conferences have as their aim the achievement of the widest possible support from all segments of the international community for United Nations decisions and resolutions.

Such conferences have included:

1973—International Conference of Experts for the Support of Victims of Colonialism and *Apartheid* in Southern Africa, held in Oslo;

1976—International Conference on Namibia and Human Rights, held in Dakar;

1977—International Conference in Support of the Peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia, held in Maputo;

1980—International Conference in Solidarity with the Struggle of the People of Namibia, held in Paris;

1981—International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa, held in Paris;

1983—International Conference in Support of the Struggle of the Namibian People for Independence, held in Paris;

1986—International Conference for the Immediate Independence of Namibia, held in Vienna.

The Council also participates in other United Nations conferences as the representative of Namibian interests. For example, it participated in the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and signed, on behalf of Namibia, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, designed, among other things, to protect the fishing and other resources of coastal States such as Namibia. It also participated, as the legal representative of Namibia, in the United Nations Conference on Succession of States in Respect of Treaties, held in Vienna in 1977.

In addition to regular meetings at United Nations Headquarters, the Council holds extraordinary plenary meetings in different major cities as part of its effort to gain the widest possible publicity for Namibian interests. Over the past decade, extraordinary plenary meetings of the Council have been held in Lusaka (1978), Algiers (1980), Panama City (1981), Arusha (1982), Bangkok (1984), Vienna (1985) and Luanda (1987). At the close of each of these sessions, the Council adopts a declaration and programme of action for continuing efforts by the international community for Namibian independence and in support of Namibian interests.

The Council also regularly attends high-level meetings of the Organization of African Unity and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

Seminars and symposiums

The situation in Namibia and specific problems related to South Africa's continued illegal occupation of the Territory are also discussed at regional seminars and symposiums where representatives of non-governmental organizations and national support groups, parliamentarians, scholars and experts from academic institutions, and prominent media and other representatives participate in the Council's discussions. Such meetings in recent years have included the seminar on the military situation in and relating to Namibia (Vienna, June 1982); the seminar on the activities of foreign economic interests in the exploitation of Namibia's natural and human resources (Ljubljana, April 1984); the seminar on the efforts of the international community to end South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia (Montreal, July 1984); the symposium on the immediate independence of Namibia (Singapore, May 1985); the seminar on world action for the immediate independence of Namibia (Valletta, May 1986); and the seminar on support for the immediate independence of Namibia and the effective application of sanctions against South Africa (Buenos Aires, April 1987).

These seminars and symposiums have as their aim the involvement of the widest possible spectrum of the international community in the cause of Namibian independence.

Membership in specialized agencies and other organs

The United Nations Council for Namibia is a member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and is an associate member of the World Health Organization (WHO). As such, the Council participates in the meetings of those bodies as the representative of Namibian interests.

Annual observances

In August 1973, the Council declared that 26 August should be observed annually as Namibia Day for as long as necessary, as a reminder of the critical time, in August 1966, when the people of Namibia, under the leadership of SWAPO, had taken up arms to liberate their country from the illegal South African régime.

The Council also observes annually, in October, the Week of Solidarity with the People of Namibia and Their Liberation Movement, SWAPO.

In addition, the Council participates in the annual observance, on 9 August, of International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa and Namibia and, beginning on 25 May, the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Namibia and All Other Territories, as well as those in South Africa, Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights.

Assistance to and training of Namibians

In the 1967 resolution establishing the United Nations Council for Namibia, the General Assembly requested the specialized agencies and

other United Nations organs to provide technical and financial assistance to Namibia. The following year, the Assembly asked the Council to establish a co-ordinated emergency programme for rendering such assistance and also to organize a training programme for Namibians, in consultation with concerned and interested Governments "so that a cadre of civil servants and of technical and professional personnel may be developed who would be in a position to undertake the public administration and the social, political and economic development of the State". The Council was also asked to arrange for the issuance of travel documents to Namibians to enable them to travel abroad.

The emergency programme of technical and financial assistance, the training programme and the issuance of travel documents were started in 1968 and led in 1970 to the establishment by the General Assembly of the United Nations Fund for Namibia as a means of financing those programmes.

United Nations Fund for Namibia

The United Nations Fund for Namibia, for which the Council for Namibia acts as trustee, became operational in 1972. It depends primarily on voluntary contributions, but also receives each year from the regular budget of the United Nations an allocation by the General Assembly, which has ranged from \$50,000 in 1971 to \$1.5 million in 1986.

Total income of the Fund in 1986 was about \$8.7 million, of which \$2.7 million was for the general account of the Fund, \$4.2 million for the United Nations Institute for Namibia and \$1.8 million for the Nationhood Programme.

The guidelines for the Fund, adopted by the United Nations Council for Namibia in 1974, fall into four main categories:

1. *Education and training*: the provision of scholarships and of a comprehensive educational and training programme for Namibians with particular regard to the present struggle for independence and to their future administrative responsibilities in Namibia;
2. *Social and medical assistance*: the provision, where necessary, of medical and social services to Namibians in need of assistance;
3. *Legal defence*: the provision of funds for the legal defence of Namibians who are undergoing persecution, and for the legal defence of Namibian interests, the protection of the natural resources of Namibia and the assertion of Namibian sovereignty;
4. *International assertion of Namibia's sovereignty and right to complete independence*: the provision of funds, inter alia: to prepare and

disseminate printed and visual materials and radio and television programmes to further the cause of Namibian liberation; to facilitate the attendance of Namibian representatives at various international conferences, seminars and meetings; and to ensure the proper and adequate representation of the people of Namibia at the United Nations.

The guidelines for the Fund adopted in 1974 also provided for the creation of the United Nations Institute for Namibia, for all ancillary steps towards its establishment and for financing the Institute for an initial period of five years.

United Nations Institute for Namibia

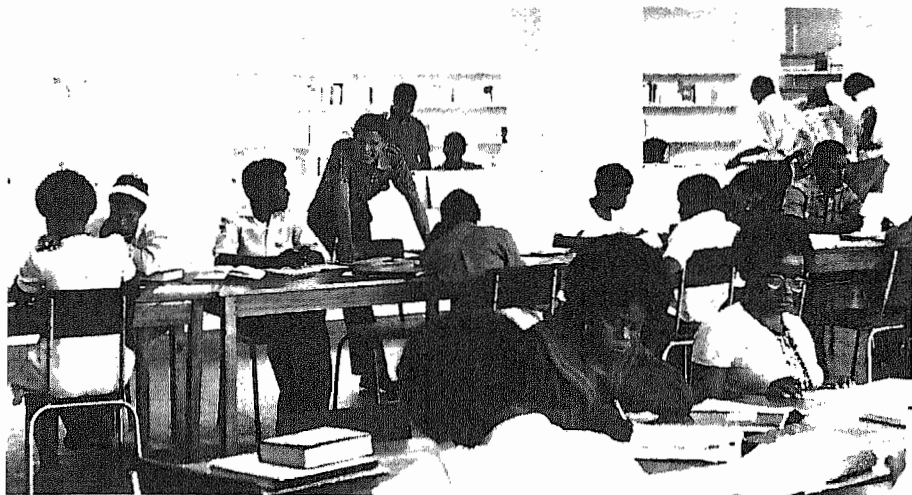
The United Nations Institute for Namibia was officially opened at Lusaka on 26 August 1976 (Namibia Day) by the President of Zambia, Kenneth D. Kaunda. Under its Charter, the Institute was to be located at Lusaka "with the kind consent of the Government of the Republic of Zambia . . . until South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia is terminated", and it was to be so organized that it could be moved to Namibia "immediately after the termination of the illegal occupation of the Territory and handed over to the Government of an independent State of Namibia".

The purposes of the Institute, as set forth in its Charter, are:

- to enable Namibians, under the aegis of the United Nations Council for Namibia, to develop and acquire the necessary skills required for manning the public service of an independent Namibia;
- to undertake research into the various political and socio-economic aspects of Namibia which would contribute to the struggle for the emancipation of Namibia, as well as assist in the formulation of policies and programmes of an independent Namibia;
- to serve as an information and documentation centre on Namibia;
- to offer such substantive support in its areas of competence as might be essential to the struggle for freedom of the Namibians and the establishment of an independent State of Namibia.

In addition to offering courses to students at the Institute, now numbering about 600, the Institute, through its Extension Unit, established in 1981, serves some 40,000 adults and youths in Zambia and Angola who have been denied education by the South African régime in Namibia.

By 1987, over 600 students had received diplomas in management and development studies, the diplomas being underwritten by the University of Zambia. In addition, diplomas in basic education and certificates in a special programme for magistrates are also awarded.



Students in the library of the United Nations Institute for Namibia at Lusaka, Zambia.

Nationhood Programme for Namibia

A second programme financed through the United Nations Fund for Namibia is the Nationhood Programme, which the General Assembly decided in 1976 to launch as a comprehensive development-oriented programme within the United Nations system, covering both the pre-independence period and the initial years of independence of Namibia.

The projects of the Nationhood Programme for Namibia fall into three broad categories: (a) pre-independence projects; (b) transitional projects; and (c) post-independence projects. At the present time, the Nationhood Programme consists of two major components: manpower-training programmes for Namibians; and surveys and analyses of the Namibian economic and social sectors, including identification of development tasks and policy options in productive sectors, such as mining, industries, fisheries and agriculture; physical infrastructure and services, including trade, transport and communications, energy and water and land resources; and social infrastructure and administration, including labour, education, information, health, nutrition and social services, housing, building and land-use planning, economic planning, public administration and the judicial system.

Since the inception of the Programme, fellowships and group-

training opportunities in various economic and social fields have been made available to close to 2,000 Namibians, accounting for over 85 per cent of the financial resources of the Programme. Training, which is offered at various institutions in a number of countries, has been conducted, and surveys and analyses initiated, in such fields as industrial development, land use and human settlement, food distribution, labour administration and legislation, transnational corporations, development planning, radio-programme production, public-enterprises management, rural development, soil-survey techniques and land evaluation, immigration procedures, agricultural economics, basic statistics, administration of public enterprises, mining, electricity, cartography and map preparation, railway operations, cargo handling and port management, fish-processing technology, basic diplomacy, maritime economics, aeronautical information services, air-traffic control, pilot training and journalism.

Educational, social and relief assistance

Educational, social and relief assistance to Namibians constitutes the third category of programmes financed by the United Nations Fund for

ECONOMIC PROFILE OF NAMIBIA

(based on studies and reports of the

Namibia is a vast, semi-arid territory, covering 824,269 sq. km. (318,261 sq. mi.) in the extreme south-western part of the African continent, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on the west, Angola on the north, Zambia on the north-east, Botswana on the east and South Africa on the south. The Territory's largest and only deep-water port is Walvis Bay, which South Africa annexed in 1977 together with the offshore islands, an action that was declared by the General Assembly to be illegal, null and void. The Territory has a population of approximately one and a half million.

Namibia is endowed with abundant natural wealth, including uranium, gem diamonds, copper, lead, zinc, manganese and other metals, as well as agricultural and fishery products.

Mining constitutes almost half of the Territory's gross domestic product (GDP) but employs only 10 per cent of the labour force. Three transnational corporations—Consolidated Diamond Mines of South West Africa, a wholly-owned subsidiary of De Beers Consolidated Mines (an affiliate of the Anglo American Corporation); the Tsumeb Corporation, owned by Gold Fields of South Africa and the Newmont Mining Corporation of the United States; and Rössing Uranium, in which the Rio Tinto Corporation of the United Kingdom owns the majority of equity capital—account for about 95 per cent

Namibia. The main activity in this category is the scholarship programme, which provides assistance to individual Namibians who are denied educational opportunities by the illegal South African administration in Namibia. In mid-1986, 224 scholarships were being used in 11 countries: 125 in the United States, 42 in Zambia, 20 in Botswana, 16 in Kenya, 9 in Romania, 6 in the United Kingdom, 2 in Zimbabwe and 1 each in Australia, the Congo, Senegal and Sweden.

Funds are also used to finance vocational and technical training for Namibians; to provide assistance in the fields of health and medical care, nutrition and social welfare; to acquire books and periodicals for Namibian refugee camps and SWAPO offices; and to facilitate the attendance of Namibian representatives at international seminars, meetings and conferences.

Activities of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia

The Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia administers the assistance programmes under the United Nations Fund for

United Nations Council for Namibia)

of mineral production and exports and hold approximately 80 per cent of the Territory's mineral assets.

Commercial agriculture provides a lucrative income for some 5,000 white farmers who own more than 95 per cent of the marketed agricultural output, while subsistence agriculture, virtually the only economic activity set aside for the indigenous population, represents only 2.5 per cent of marketed output. Overall, the agricultural sector—chiefly cattle-raising, dairy-farming and the production of caracul (Persian lamb) pelts, in which firms based in Canada and the United Kingdom are involved—contributes about 14 per cent to GDP and 20 per cent to exports.

Fisheries, once abundant in Namibia's coastal waters, have been depleted through overfishing. A number of corporations based in South Africa control the fishing industry, including the inshore processing industry and much of the fishing fleet.

The manufacturing sector, which is also dominated by South African and other foreign economic interests, accounts for about 5 per cent of GDP and employs 10 per cent of the work force.

The ratio of white to black per capita income in Namibia was estimated in 1980 to be 24 to 1, one of the most inequitable distributions of income in the world.

Namibia—the United Nations Institute for Namibia, the Nationhood Programme for Namibia, and educational, social and relief assistance. Offices of the Commissioner are located in Luanda, Lusaka and Gaborone.

The Commissioner also undertakes fund-raising missions and participates in international conferences and meetings on behalf of Namibia and Namibian interests. He is also responsible for the implementation of the Council's Decree for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia.



Workers breaking for lunch at a lead smelter plant in Tsumeb, in north-central Namibia.

Protection of the natural resources of Namibia

In an effort to stop the decades-old exploitation of Namibia's rich natural resources by South African and other foreign corporations, the United Nations Council for Namibia enacted, on 27 September 1974, Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia. The Decree is aimed at securing for the Namibians "adequate protection of the natural wealth and resources of the Territory which is rightfully theirs".

The Decree stipulates that:

1. No person or entity, whether a body corporate or unincorporated, may search, prospect or explore for, or take, extract, mine, process, refine, use, sell, export, or distribute any natural resource, whether animal or mineral, situated within the territorial limits of Namibia without the consent and permission of the United Nations Council for Namibia or any person authorized to act on its behalf for the purpose of giving such permission or consent;

2. Any permission, concession or licence for all or any of the purposes specified in paragraph 1 above whensoever granted by any person or entity, including any body purporting to act under the authority of the Government of South Africa or the "Administration of South West Africa" or their predecessors, is null, void and of no force or effect;

3. No natural resource produced in or emanating from Namibia may be taken by any means whatsoever to any place outside the territorial limits of Namibia by any person or body, whether corporate or unincorporated, without the consent and permission of the Council for Namibia or of any person authorized to act on behalf of the Council;

4. Any natural resource produced in or emanating from Namibia, which is taken from the Territory without the consent and written authority of the Council for Namibia or of any person authorized to act on behalf of the Council, may be seized and shall be forfeited to the benefit of the Council and held in trust by it for the benefit of the people of Namibia;

5. Any vehicle, ship or container found to be carrying any natural resource produced in or emanating from Namibia shall also be subject to seizure and forfeiture by or on behalf of the Council for Namibia and shall be forfeited to the benefit of the Council and held in trust by it for the benefit of the people of Namibia;

6. Any person, entity or corporation which contravenes this decree in respect of Namibia may be held liable for damages by the future Government of an independent Namibia.

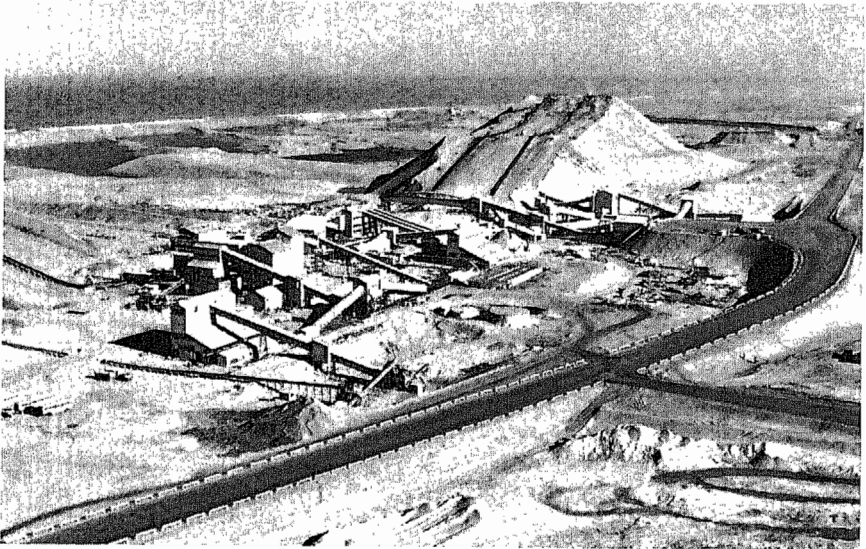
Enforcement of the Decree involves research into the destination of all exports from Namibia, whether by sea or land, and research and preparation to ensure that when Namibian natural resources illegally taken from Namibia are traced to any jurisdiction, the necessary legal modalities and formalities to enable seizures to take place will have been ascertained and can be operated swiftly and effectively.

At its extraordinary plenary meetings in Vienna in 1985, the Council decided "to promote actively the implementation of the Decree through legal action in the domestic courts of States and through polit-

ical action and consultations, intended to put an end to the plunder of all Namibia's natural resources", and it requested the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia to take the necessary steps towards that end after consultations with the President of the Council.

The Council's decision followed several years of study, by lawyers engaged by the Commissioner, of the feasibility of instituting legal proceedings in domestic courts against firms and individuals engaged in trade in Namibian products, in violation of the Decree, in Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States.

In July 1987, the Council, in a first step in implementing its 1985 decision, instructed its Dutch counsel to institute legal proceedings before the District Court of The Hague against the Dutch uranium enrichment plant Urenco Nederland V.O.F. and its State-controlled managing partner Ultra-Centrifuge Nederland N.V., as well as the Government of the Netherlands. Through the proceedings in the Netherlands, the Council is seeking to prevent Urenco Nederland V.O.F. from carrying out orders on the basis of purchases of Namibian uranium.



UN Photo

An aerial view of the Consolidated Diamond mine at Oranjemund, in southern Namibia.



A fish-processing plant at the port of Lüderitz on Namibia's southern coast.

Hearings on Namibian uranium

In July 1980, the United Nations Council for Namibia's Panel for Hearings on Namibian Uranium, meeting at United Nations Headquarters, heard testimony from 24 expert witnesses regarding the mining, transport, processing and sale of Namibian uranium by South African and other foreign economic interests involved in Namibia and on the effects of the mining of uranium on the health of Namibian miners and on their environment. The purpose of the hearings, among other things, was to expose and denounce the illegal exploitation and plunder of Namibian uranium by South African and other foreign interests and to assess the resulting financial and economic deprivation suffered by the Namibian people.

The Council's report on the uranium hearings and its conclusions and recommendations were later approved by the General Assembly, which reaffirmed that the natural resources of Namibia are the inviolable heritage of the Namibian people and that the rapid depletion of those resources by foreign economic interests, in collusion with the South African administration, is a grave threat to the integrity and prosperity of an independent Namibia.

Presidents of the UN Council for Namibia

1967-1972	Presidency of the Council rotated among the members of the Council in English alphabetical order, monthly from 1967 to 1969 and every four months from 1970 to 1972.
1973	Paul J.F. Lusaka (Zambia).
1974	Rashleigh E. Jackson (Guyana).
1975	Rupiah B. Banda (Zambia).
1976-1977	Dunstan W. Kamana (Zambia).
1977-1978	Gwendoline C. Konie (Zambia).
1979-1986	Paul J.F. Lusaka (Zambia).
1987-	Peter D. Zuze (Zambia)

United Nations Commissioners for Namibia

1967-1969	Constantin A. Stavropoulos, Acting Commissioner.
1970-1971	Agha Abdul Hamid, Acting Commissioner.
1972-1973	Agha Abdul Hamid.
1974-1976	Sean MacBride.
1977-1981	Martti Ahtisaari.
1982-1987	Brajesh C. Mishra.
1987-	Bernt Carlsson.