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LETTER DATED 9 JANUARY 1980 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to my report of 20 November 1979 (S/13634) concerning the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) of 29 September 1978 on the question of Namibia.

Taking into account the letter of 5 December 1979 (S/13680) that I have received from the Foreign Minister of South Africa, I propose to proceed with the detailed technical discussions envisaged in paragraph 10 of my 20 November report.

In order to facilitate these discussions and with a view to the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), it is my intention, if the Council so consents, to appoint Lieutenant-General Prem Chand of India initially as Commander-designate and later as Commander of the military component of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG). As members of the Security Council are aware, Lieutenant-General Prem Chand has extensive experience of United Nations peace-keeping operations. It will be recalled, in this connexion, that I had earlier designated Major-General Hannes Philipp to this post. Major-General Philipp has since returned to the service of his Government, following the completion of his assignment as Commander of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF).

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kurt WALDHEIM