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QUESTION OF NAMIBIA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-third year

Letter dated 20 November 1978 from the President of the United
Nations Council for Namibia to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a statement approved by the Steering Committee of the United Nations Council for Namibia regarding invitations issued by the Government of South Africa to journalists and other individuals and institutions to follow the arrangements which South Africa has called "elections" in Namibia to be held in December 1978.

I request that the statement be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 27, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gwendoline C. KONIE
President of the
United Nations Council for Namibia

ANNEX

Statement of the United Nations Council for Namibia
on South African manoeuvres on Namibia

1. The attention of the United Nations Council for Namibia has been drawn to invitations extended by South Africa to selected politicians, journalists and others, principally from Western countries, to observe the illegal elections it proposes to hold in Namibia in defiance of decisions of the Security Council.
2. These invitations have been issued by the so-called Administrator-General of the South African régime which unlawfully occupies Namibia. South Africa has promised to pay the expenses of those who are invited. The illegal régime has earmarked the sum of half a million rand in furtherance of this bogus public-relations exercise aimed at giving a semblance of credibility to the fraudulent unilateral elections.
3. Having consistently defied previous resolutions of the Security Council, South Africa has most recently failed to co-operate in the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) concerning the holding of free and fair elections under the supervision and control of the United Nations. While advancing specious reasons for its failure, it has decided yet again to flout the unanimous will of the international community by holding elections aimed at installing a puppet régime. This is yet another manoeuvre by South Africa to attain de facto recognition for its continuing attempts to thwart genuine self-determination for the Namibian people and to confuse international public opinion.
4. The United Nations Council for Namibia commends those responsible organizations and journalists that have already refused to lend their presence to this spurious exercise. It strongly urges all others to do the same. The Council condemns the racist régime of South Africa for this impudent attempt to give legitimacy to the so-called elections through which it intends to install its puppets in power in Namibia in utter defiance of the United Nations.
5. The Security Council has condemned this unilateral action and has declared the elections null and void. It has solemnly warned South Africa that no recognition will be accorded either by the United Nations or any Member States to any representative or organ established by the process and has called on South Africa immediately to cancel such elections (resolution 439 (1978)). The invitations extended by South Africa to selected politicians, journalists and others to witness the sham elections in Namibia are further demonstration of South Africa's continued arrogant defiance of the Security Council and the United Nations as a whole. The United Nations Council for Namibia draws the attention of the Security Council to this new South African challenge to its authority and expresses the hope that the Security Council will act as appropriate.
