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SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SUBMITTED
PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 7 OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION
439 (1978) CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN NAMIBIA

1. I held meetings with Mr. R. F. Botha, Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa, from 27 to 29 November 1978, to follow up the discussions I had initiated on 23 November with the Secretary for Foreign Affairs described in my report of 24 November (S/12938). At the opening meeting I referred the Foreign Minister in particular to those subparagraphs of paragraph 11 of my report, which state as follows:

"11. Within the context of relevant Security Council decisions, which I outlined to the Secretary for Foreign Affairs of South Africa, I asked him for a clarification of the position of his Government on the following additional matters:

(a) Paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 439 (1978);

(b) Commencement of UNTAG activities in Namibia, effective from 1 January 1979, which I had proposed to the Secretary for Foreign Affairs during our discussions;

(c) Subject to paragraph (b) above, the agreement of the Government of South Africa and the United Nations to establish provisional dates for the various stages and steps projected in the time-table annexed to document S/12636;

(d) Related to the above, establishment of a provisional date for the elections to be fixed approximately seven months from the date of commencement of UNTAG in Namibia;

(g) Practical arrangements for a cease-fire to be effected by South Africa and SWAPO, each addressing to me a written undertaking to discontinue all hostile acts. That would be in accordance with the proposal for a settlement and would come into force with the commencement of UNTAG on a specified date. These procedures would be finalized after acceptance of resolution 435 (1978) by South Africa."

I informed the Foreign Minister that I would appreciate any further clarifications he might wish to give, in addition to the answers given by the Secretary for Foreign Affairs (S/12938, paras. 13-18), on matters raised therein for the information of the Security Council. I emphasized to the Minister the urgency of clarifications on the above issues in connexion with the establishment of an operational calendar for the emplacement of UNTAG in Namibia.

2. In reply, the Foreign Minister first gave an account of discussions with the five Western Governments during negotiations for the proposal of a settlement, as reflected in Security Council documents S/12836 and S/12853. He said that he wished to focus on those discussions in order to show the context of South Africa's agreement to the proposal for a settlement and thus to seek to remove any doubts about his Government's intentions in regard to it. In particular, he referred to the strength of the military component of UNTAG and to the South African decision to hold elections in the Territory in December 1978. He stated that South Africa had, during the discussions prior to the conclusion of the proposal for a settlement, made certain commitments to the parties concerned in the Territory relating to such matters. South Africa therefore desired to have consultations on the strength and composition of the military component of UNTAG.

3. In reply, I informed the Foreign Minister that as the United Nations had not participated in the negotiation of the proposal for a settlement I was not in a position to comment on the account he had given. In regard to the strength and composition of the military component, I invited his further attention to the relevant part of my explanatory statement of 28 September 1978 (S/12869) adopted by the Security Council in resolution 435 (1978). I then once again recalled the terms of paragraph 11 of my report (S/12938) and asked him if he was prepared to offer further clarifications on the issues raised therein.

4. The Foreign Minister stated that he was authorized to give the following clarification at that stage:

(a) With reference to paragraph 13 of the Secretary-General's report to the Security Council of 24 November, document S/12938, the South African Government is willing in the course of the coming month also strongly to recommend to the parties concerned that resolution 435 (1978) be implemented. In the meantime, consultations on the few outstanding points will be continued in an effort to resolve them.

(b) With regard to paragraph 14 of the Secretary-General's report the South African Government would be prepared to recommend to the parties concerned that a date be set for the elections seven months after the commencement of the emplacement of UNTAG.

5. In subsequent discussions, I impressed on Mr. Botha that his reply did not clarify South Africa's position in regard to the basic issues described in paragraph 11 of my report (S/12938). I emphasized that these were crucial matters on which the Security Council would need to be satisfied as to the willingness of South Africa to co-operate in the implementation of Security Council resolution 435.

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I said that while I had noted in my report (S/12938, para. 6) that he had previously made it clear that it would not be possible for him to reach finality during our talks in New York it was necessary to provide in the immediate future more substantial clarifications than he had hitherto given.

6. In this connexion I requested further clarifications in respect of paragraph 4 (a) and (b) above from the Foreign Minister, taking into account South Africa's refusal to cancel the December elections. These points covered South Africa's willingness to co-operate in the implementation of resolution 435; a time-limit for the consultations deemed necessary by South Africa and for the communication of its final position on the implementation of resolution 435 to the Secretary-General; the continuation of the exercise of South Africa's authority in Namibia pending the full implementation of the proposal for a settlement; and the resolution of some outstanding points on which further consultations were considered necessary by the Government of South Africa.

7. I urgently requested the Foreign Minister to give me an answer by the end of the week. He stated that, after talks in Washington, he would return to South Africa for consultations and would communicate with me over the week-end of 2-3 December 1978.

8. In the light of the discussions described above, the Deputy Permanent Representative of South Africa conveyed to me, on 2 December 1978, the approval of his Government on the following:

- South Africa reiterates its willingness to co-operate in the implementation of resolution 435 (1978)
- South Africa is willing, during the month of December, to conclude consultations with the parties concerned on the principles of resolution 435 (1978), and to communicate the results to the Secretary-General
- South Africa reaffirms that it will retain authority in Namibia pending the implementation of the proposal; and
- consultations on the outstanding points will continue in an effort to resolve them.