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LETTER DATED 5 OCTOBER 1978 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF CANADA, FRANCE,
GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF, THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND
NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ADDRESSED TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

As you know in the course of the efforts of the Five to facilitate an internationally-acceptable settlement of the Namibia question we have consulted all of the political parties in Namibia. One of those parties, the Namibia National Front, has addressed the enclosed statement to us with the request that it be brought to the attention of Member States. Because the NNF did not participate in the proceedings of the Security Council on 29-30 September 1978, we request, without commitment as to the substance of the views stated, that this letter and its enclosure be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed)

William H. BARTON
Permanent Representative of Canada
to the United Nations

Jacques LEPRETTE
Permanent Representative of France
to the United Nations

Rüdiger von WECHMAR
Permanent Representative of the
Federal Republic of Germany to
the United Nations

Ivor RICHARD
Permanent Representative of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland to the
United Nations

Andrew YOUNG
Permanent Representative of the
United States of America to the
United Nations

Annex

Statement dated 29 September 1978 by Mr. R. V. Rukoro

We are deeply conscious of the importance of this occasion and the deliberations on which we are embarking here. There can be no doubt that the success or failure of these deliberations and the subsequent Secretary-General's efforts to implement the present resolution will determine the future shape of the southern African continent itself. The Central Committee of the Namibia National Front (NNF) has asked me to set before you today, in clear and comprehensive terms, the view it takes of this enterprise and to emphasize the importance which it attaches to the success of these deliberations.

Over the past year and a half painstaking negotiations to find a peaceful solution to the Namibia problem have been undertaken by the five Western States members of this Council with the support of the five front-line African States and, indeed, the whole international community. At this juncture the fruits of those negotiations are in jeopardy. The South African Government faced with the inevitable collapse of its chosen group, the DTA, has decided to reject the recommendations of the Secretary-General and to embark upon an internal settlement devised to install a puppet government controlled from Pretoria. We have categorically rejected this move on the part of South Africa and would continue to oppose any imposition of puppet structures by South Africa on our people and country.

The Namibian National Front, an alliance of political parties and patriotic groups in Namibia, is a progressive power bloc representing a wide section of the Namibian population. We have over a long period of time fought relentlessly for genuine national independence and social justice and will continue to do so until these goals are achieved.

The Namibia National Front supports the recommendations of the Secretary-General and consequently rejects and opposes the decision of the South African Government to proceed unilaterally with bogus elections in Namibia. We are determined to continue our just struggle for self-determination and national independence.

The NNF has at all times insisted that the necessary prerequisite for free and fair elections in Namibia must include, inter alia, the cessation of all hostile acts; the withdrawal of all but 1,500 South African troops as stipulated in document S/12636; the release of all political detainees including those held outside Namibia; and the repeal of all discriminatory legislation and administrative rules. We believe that until the conditions set out above have been attained, and all Namibian exiles who so wish have returned to Namibia, no fair election campaign is possible. In the light of the aforementioned, the NNF considers April 1979 to be the very earliest date to be considered for the holding of elections to elect members of the Constituent Assembly. The NNF shares the same view as the Secretary-General that it should be the prerogative of the Constituent Assembly to determine the actual date of independence.

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The NNF feels that the military component of UNTAG must of necessity comprise sufficient numbers to enable it to undertake effectively all tasks envisaged in the proposals contained in document S/12636 of 10 April 1978. Accordingly, the NNF fully supports the Secretary-General's recommendations to the Security Council in this regard. The NNF, however, insists that proper and adequate consultation regarding the composition of the military component of UNTAG must take place with all the parties concerned.

The views expressed in the paragraph above apply equally to the civilian components of UNTAG. The concept of a civil police component of UNTAG as contained in paragraphs 28 to 30 of the Secretary-General's report and as further elucidated by the Secretary-General appears to be consistent with the proposals contained in paragraph 9 of document S/12636.

The NNF notes that the Secretary-General's report is silent on the process of registration of voters initiated by the Administrator-General of Namibia. The NNF has on various occasions expressed its strong criticism of the unilateral action taken by the South African representative in proclaiming regulations which in terms of paragraph 5 of document S/12636 required the prior approval of the United Nations Special Representative for Namibia, and which, inter alia, determine the qualifications of voters. The NNF therefore suggests that the question of registration of voters should stand over for negotiation between the United Nations Special Representative, Mr. Ahtisaari, and the Administrator General, once the report of the Secretary-General is approved by the Security Council and the official transition period begins. A compromise can then be considered as suggested by the NNF in previous statements:

1. The extension of the period of registration to about 31 December 1978 with additional appropriate extensions where necessary for exiles or detainees presently outside Namibia to return;
2. The compilation of a central voters roll as specified in the Western proposal. A reasonable opportunity thereafter to challenge registrations;
3. Adequate safeguards during the elections itself to ensure against multiple voting by persons who have registered more than once;
4. A provision to the effect that birth or residence in the Port and settlement of Walvis Bay should be deemed to be birth or residence in Namibia.

The NNF considers the Secretary-General's report to be both realistic and to present the only practical possibility of a peaceful solution to the Namibian problem which would be in the interest of the Namibian people, and indeed of all South Africa.

We must also point out here that this august body and particularly the five Western Powers will fail in their duty if effective and persuasive action is

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not contemplated and taken against the new devices of the Pretoria régime aimed at installing a puppet government in Namibia.

In conclusion, the NNF will fail in its duty if we do not comment on some aspects of the resolution just adopted by this Council. There is, in our view, no justification whatsoever for SWAPO - a party that has been rather intransigent over the past few months - to be singled out and praised for its "preparedness to co-operate in the implementation of the Secretary-General's report". Moreover SWAPO-N is not the only political movement in Namibia that is prepared to co-operate with the implementation of the Secretary-General's report. As already pointed out the NNF was the very first and for a long time the only movement that gave unqualified support to the efforts of the Five and subsequent negotiations. We, therefore, feel that the Security Council's deliberations on the Namibian question should not be used as a platform for partisan and divisive politics, especially, by those who have recently made an appeal to the Africans in Namibia to rise and reject Vorster's proposed elections. In our view some of the paragraphs of this resolution are providing ammunition to the South African Government's efforts to question the impartiality of this body.

As regards impartiality, we believe that it is not only essential to safeguard the impartial implementation of the Security Council's plan at the Secretariat level but it is also very important for the political organ, the Security Council, that draws up that plan to involve all the Namibian political parties without favour or fear. Impartiality cannot be argued on good foundation while a large, the largest, segment of the Namibian liberation movement is excluded from the deliberations of the Security Council. We believe that an equitable arrangement to accommodate all the Namibian political parties can and must be worked out. We trust that our approach will commend itself to you as constructive and as being in accord with both the spirit and the letter of free and fair elections as envisaged in Security Council resolution 385 (1976).
