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LETTER DATED 21 OCTOBER 1978 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF CANADA,
FRANCE, GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT
BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from our Governments, we have the honour to transmit the text of the Joint Statement issued at the end of the talks between the Foreign Ministers of the five Governments and the South African Government held from 16-18 October 1978, together with the text of a further statement issued at the same time by the five Ministers.

The five Governments reaffirm their continued commitment to their proposal for a settlement of the Namibian situation contained in document S/12636 and their support for the Secretary-General's report in S/12827 and his explanatory statement in S/12869, as approved by the Security Council in resolution 435.

We should be grateful if this letter and accompanying annexes could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Paul A. LAPOINTE
Deputy Permanent Representative of
Canada to the United Nations

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

(Signed) Jacques LEPRETTE
Permanent Representative of France
to the United Nations

(Signed) James F. LEONARD
Permanent Representative of the
United States of America to the
United Nations

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

ANNEX I

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT
AND THE FIVE FOREIGN MINISTERS

1. On 25 April 1978 the South African Government announced its acceptance of the proposals of the Western Five for an internationally acceptable settlement of the Namibia problem. However, when the United Nations Secretary-General published his report on the implementation of the proposals, the South African Government expressed concern that certain aspects of the report were not in accordance with the Western proposal. The areas of concern were the size of the military component of UNTAG, the question of consultations, the proposal for police monitors and the date of the elections. The statement by the Secretary-General in the Security Council on 29 September addressed itself to clarification of these areas of concern.

2. The Five Foreign Ministers and the South African Government discussed these clarifications further in order to establish common ground on the implementation of the report of the Secretary-General.

The following main points were examined:

(a) Police force:

While the South African delegation considered the number of civilian personnel envisaged for police monitoring responsibilities excessive, it believed that the Secretary-General's explanatory statement in the Security Council had removed South Africa's preoccupation with the character and role of the personnel concerned. It had become clear that the functions of the existing police forces would not be affected.

(b) Consultation:

The Five intimated their agreement that they were committed to the principle of fair consultation, emphasizing that this had been reaffirmed by the Secretary-General in his introductory statement of 29 September in the Security Council. This would cover, inter alia, the composition and actual size of the military component of UNTAG. The Five intimated that they would seek confirmation that their interpretation coincided with that of the Secretary-General. On that basis the South African delegation felt that the question of consultation could be resolved.

(c) Troops:

The composition and the actual total figure of UNTAG would be determined by the Secretary-General after consultation by his Special Representative with the Administrator-General in the light of the prevailing circumstances.

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3. The South African Government and the Five Foreign Ministers accordingly believe that it would now be appropriate for the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Mr. Ahtisaari, to resume his discussions with the South African Administrator-General of Namibia within the framework of Security Council resolution 435 which endorsed the Secretary-General's report. The aim of these discussions would be to work out the modalities of the proposed elections under United Nations supervision and to fix a date for these elections. The Five Foreign Ministers therefore intend to recommend to the Secretary-General that he should instruct Mr. Ahtisaari to proceed to Windhoek as soon as possible. In addition, it was regarded as appropriate to recommend to the Secretary-General that he begin consultations on the composition of the military component of UNTAG.

4. The South African Government stated that the planned December elections must be seen as an internal process to elect leaders.

The South African Government will thereafter use its best efforts to persuade them seriously to consider ways and means of achieving international recognition through the good offices of the Special Representative and the Administrator-General.

In implementation of this goal the Special Representative would consult with the Administrator-General on all aspects of the Secretary-General's report (including the fixing of a further election date).

5. The Five Foreign Ministers stated with regard to the unilateral elections in December, that they saw no way of reconciling such elections with the proposal which they put forward and which the Security Council has endorsed. Any such unilateral measure in relation to the electoral process will be regarded as null and void.

ANNEX II

19 October statement regarding Namibia made by the Governments of
Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, the United Kingdom
and the United States

The fixing of a date is necessary to provide a firm framework for the electoral process and to reduce uncertainty. The proposals of the Western Five adopted by the Security Council establish a number of prerequisites before the official political campaign starts. In this connexion the South African Government stressed that the withdrawal of South African troops would only begin upon cessation of hostilities. The Five pointed out that this would be brought about following notification to the Secretary-General of an agreed cease-fire. No party can be allowed to delay unilaterally the holding of United Nations-supervised elections. If the agreed date of the election appeared to be at risk through acts of violence or intimidation or any other failure to carry out the provisions of the proposals, it would be for the Secretary-General to bring the matter immediately to the Security Council and the Governments of the Western Five undertake to support necessary action in the Security Council. The Five Western Governments undertake to maintain observers in Windhoek during the transitional period and to do everything possible to ensure the implementation of the proposals leading to elections on the agreed date.

The Five Foreign Ministers are confident that the Security Council would respond promptly and effectively to any situation where the agreed date of the election appeared to be at risk and would maintain that election date and that there will therefore be no case for any unilateral action.
