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FOURTH COMMITTEE  
Agenda item 38

QUESTION OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA

Statement made by the Representative of the Union of South Africa  
at the 924th meeting of the Fourth Committee

Note by the Secretariat: The following statement is circulated to members of the Fourth Committee in accordance with a decision taken by the Committee at its 924th meeting.

Mr. Chairman, during the last few meetings I listened with interest to a number of very constructive statements, particularly those of the distinguished representatives of Mexico, United States, Iran, United Kingdom, Ceylon and India.

I have also been impressed by the note of sincerity and desire to find a way out of the impasse that we had apparently reached.

I can assure the Committee that we are equally desirous of finding a way out and it is in this spirit that I wish to outline our position briefly as follows:

Firstly, we shall again next year participate in the discussions of this item as we have done this year. Secondly, I have been authorized by the Union's Minister of External Affairs to reiterate his offer to recommend to the Union Government that information be made available along the lines suggested by him. Thirdly, I wish to record the Union's readiness to enter into discussions with an appropriate United Nations ad hoc body that may be appointed after prior consultation with the Union Government. If, and when, such a body is appointed we would assume that the so necessary element of goodwill would be present and that it would be able to approach its task in a constructive fashion, thus not ruling out the fullest discussion and exploration of all possibilities.

Naturally, Mr. Chairman, it would be possible for us to carry out these intentions only within the framework of co-operation - a desire for which seemed to me very real at our recent meetings. It is hoped, therefore, that further developments will not force the Union to reassess its attitude.