



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/15811
1 June 1983

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 1 JUNE 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
SOMALIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In view of the fact that a resolution on the question of Namibia has already been unanimously adopted before the conclusion of the debate, I no longer feel that there is any need for me to deliver a statement before the Council. I am, however, sending my statement herewith, and I should be grateful if you could kindly have it circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmed Mohamed ADAN
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

Annex

Statement by the Permanent Representative of Somalia to the
United Nations on the question of Namibia

Mr. President,

I thank you and the members of the Security Council for giving me the opportunity to take part in this important debate.

Let me first of all extend to you my warm congratulations on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the current month. It is a matter of great satisfaction to me that a fellow African and a diplomat of your great experience and high personal achievement is presiding over this meeting, which takes place at a critical phase of the Namibian situation.

Many of us here are experiencing, I am sure, a frustrating sense of deja vue as we take up once again the question of South Africa's intransigence, bad faith and obstruction of Namibia's independence. When the initiative of the Western Contact Group and the statesmanlike response of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) led to the adoption of resolution 435 (1978), it seemed that international efforts to secure Namibia's independence would at last bear fruit. It is, therefore, extremely disappointing that, today, almost five years later, South Africa remains in illegal occupation of Namibia, in defiance of the resolutions of the Security Council and the relevant decisions of the International Court of Justice. In spite of reaffirmations by this Council that resolution 435 (1978) is the only internationally acceptable basis for a Namibian settlement, United Nations bodies have had occasion, time and again, to meet for the specific purpose of condemning one or another of South Africa's attempts to stall for time and impose its own arrangements for the control of Namibia.

The frustration felt by the vast majority of countries over this state of affairs is deepened when we consider that so many other southern African peoples have achieved liberation from colonial rule, but the Namibian people, for whom the United Nations has a direct legal responsibility, still suffer under racist, colonial oppression.

During the past five years, when South Africa's machinations have given rise to increasing cynicism and dismay, the patience and flexibility of SWAPO, the sole authentic representative of the Namibian people, have been noteworthy. Furthermore, the Contact Group has continued its efforts to overcome constitutional problems, and the Secretary-General and his staff have exerted outstanding efforts to ensure a continuing momentum towards the implementation of the United Nations plan for Namibia. In our view, the only outstanding issues, as far as the United Nations is concerned, are the choice of the electoral system and some final problems relating to the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) and its composition.

/...

Nevertheless, the international community is still forced to pose the same questions with regard to Namibia which it has repeatedly posed in the past. For how long must the Namibian people endure the indignity of racist policies, the inhumanity of widespread political repression and persecution and the intimidating presence of massive forces of military occupation? For how long must they be subjected to attempts to undermine their national unity by the imposition of tribal divisions? For how long must the rich natural resources of their country be subjected to ruthless exploitation and plunder? Indeed, for how long must the people of Namibia continue to be denied their birthright to self-determination and national independence?

The present stalemate between the United Nations and South Africa over Namibia can be traced to South Africa's experience in the past that the punitive measures available under the Charter are not used against it, even when its illegal and aggressive policies clearly threaten regional and international peace and security. Regrettably, South Africa believes that it can continue to defy the United Nations with impunity.

My Government sincerely hopes that South Africa's belief that it is invulnerable is unfounded. We hope that all the members of the Security Council will join in taking action to disabuse the Pretoria régime of that belief. It seems clear to us that the Council cannot give South Africa yet another period of grace in which to trump up further excuses for delaying Namibia's independence. The Council must discharge its inescapable responsibility in this matter by taking action to ensure, without further delay, the establishment of a Namibian State which is free, independent, unified and territorially intact.

There are several factors which the Security Council cannot ignore in dealing with the Namibian situation today and in performing its function of averting threats to peace and security. It cannot ignore the untenable suffering of the Namibian people, for whom the United Nations has a legal responsibility; it cannot ignore implications of South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia; and it cannot ignore the threat to regional and world peace posed by South Africa's military aggressions in southern Africa. Furthermore, the Council's own credibility will be seriously compromised if it fails to back up its own decisions on Namibia with action. Finally, the Council cannot ignore the unanimity and strength of international opinion on Namibia expressed with compelling clarity at the recent Paris Conference in Support of the Struggle of the Namibian People for Independence.

In the view of my Government, the Security Council must reaffirm the direct responsibility of the United Nations for Namibian independence. It must reaffirm that Security Council resolution 435 (1978), containing the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia, constitutes the sole basis for the peaceful settlement of the Namibian question.

My Government hopes that the Council will vigorously condemn South Africa's stalling tactics and its internal arrangements designed to maintain political and military control of Namibia, and that it will set a date for the implementation of the United Nations plan for Namibian independence.

/...

Mr. President, the Namibian people will undoubtedly continue its valiant struggle under the leadership of SWAPO and with the support of all freedom-loving peoples until the goal of national independence has been achieved. But sanity and common sense demand effective international action to end the tragic cycle of violence, conflict and bloodshed. We must not be confused by South Africa's attempt to picture the victims of its policies as the aggressors in southern Africa. It is South Africa's racist policies of apartheid, its illegal and repressive occupation of Namibia and its military aggression which inflict violence on the people of the area.

Mr. President, the broadest possible international consensus on the principles and modalities for a Namibian settlement has been firmly established; but if South Africa is allowed once again to nullify the efforts of the world community on behalf of Namibia, the results will undoubtedly be tragic and far-reaching. Conflict and bloodshed will remain endemic in southern Africa, with incalculable consequences for regional and world peace and security; the moral and legal authority of the United Nations will be seriously undermined and the outlook for the principle of international co-operation to end threats to peace will be bleak indeed. We trust that the members of the Council will respond to the Secretary-General's call for a demonstration of the necessary political will to bring about the early independence of Namibia.

Thank you, Mr. President.
