



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/15791*
10 June 1983

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The attached statement by Seychelles on the item "The situation in Namibia", currently being considered by the Security Council, is circulated in accordance with a request made by the Permanent Representative of Seychelles to the United Nations.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

Annex

Statement by Ambassador Giovienalla Gonthier, Permanent Representative of Seychelles to the United Nations, on the item "The situation in Namibia"

Mr. President,

The Republic of Seychelles wishes to reaffirm its solidarity with the people of Namibia in their struggle for self-determination. The people of Namibia must be allowed to freely determine their own future ... if they are to have a future.

Mr. President,

As this august body well knows, in 1978, Resolution 435 established the means by which the people of Namibia would be able to determine their future through free and fair elections - elections based on proportional representation - not thwarting the dominant force in Namibia. Resolution 435 represents almost four decades of work by the United Nations. For four decades the United Nations has steadfastly supported the inalienable right of the people of Namibia to self-determination and independence. But still the people of Namibia wait for Resolution 435 to be implemented and their inalienable rights to be realized. They wait because some of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council are unwilling to act decisively. They wait because of a single erroneous issue: the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. The tragic consequence of their waiting is an amazing increase in violence, widespread suffering and considerable loss of life. The people of Namibia are a patient people. They waited 100 years before fighting for their independence. But the loss of a single Namibian child's life is an independence waited for too long.

The primary reason for Namibia's long wait is the linkage of their independence with the presence of Cuban forces in Angola. Certainly, foreign interests have contributed to the forging of this link - regardless of the fact that such a linkage makes nonsense of the notion of sovereignty. For how can the United Nations on the one hand support Namibia's right to self-determination and independence and deny Angola's on the other? Unlike South African troops, the Cuban troops in the People's Republic of Angola are there at the invitation of the government and in full conformity with the United Nations Charter. It certainly seems that sometimes one hand doesn't know what the other hand is doing. A hands-off approach to the Namibian question may be the most productive approach - allow the Namibian people to determine their own future.

Linking the issue of liberation of Namibia to a question pertaining to the exercise of sovereignty by Angola, has deeply affected the peaceful development of harmonious relations within the region. The destabilization of economic and political life worsens each day - each day that the lethal link survives. The recent aggression in Mozambique substantiates this. Making Namibia's liberation contingent upon Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola is a perfidious act. If it were anything else why hasn't Namibia's liberation been made contingent upon the

/...

withdrawal of South African troops as well? I would like to remind this distinguished Council that since the invasion of Angola by South Africa in 1975, increasing use has been made of special units for cross-border invasions into that country and others, including my own, sometimes disguised as mercenaries. But most of us are intelligent enough not to be duped by South Africa.

In this overcharged atmosphere, one thing often forgotten is the country itself, the real Namibia, that lies under all the layers of argument and obfuscation. While debates continue here and in Washington, that suffering country waits to be restored, not only that onlookers can see it more clearly but so that it may rediscover itself. I repeat rediscover itself. If that is to happen - and it is the sincere hope of The Republic of Seychelles that it will happen soon - our actions, must speak louder than our words and we fully support the role of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on Namibia.
